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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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June 18th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 24 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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GILL NET EDITORIAL

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 24 **June 18th, 1981**

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About the Cover—

Weaks, along with blues and some stripers, have generated good surf action on both shores of the Island in recent weeks. The "Surf Report" follows the regular fishing reports.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **RIGGING SHARK BAITS**

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Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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Fred Golofaro — EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer — ART DIRECTOR
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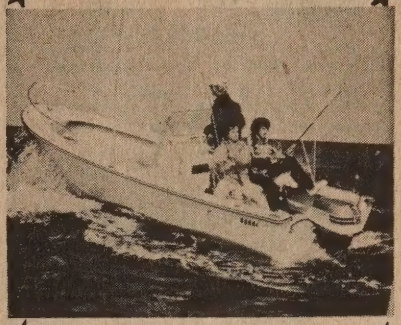

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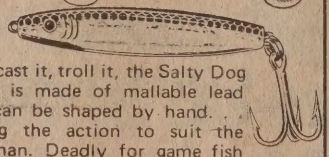

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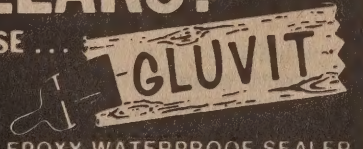

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EDITORIAL

TIME FOR READER ACTION ON GILL NET BILL

Several weeks ago we urged you, through the Pass-It-On section of this publication, to send letters to Senator Owen Johnson in support of the Encon Gill Net and Trammel bill. We received short notice on that situation and therefore did not have time to prepare and print an expanded editorial. That bill has now been passed by both Houses and has been sent to the Governor for signature. It is IMPERATIVE that recreational fishermen generate pressure on the Governor.

First, let's discuss the law itself. In essence, the law would ban the use of gill nets in inland waters, with the exception of Gardiner's Bay and Block Island Sound, between sunset, Friday evening and sunrise, Monday morning. The exemption of these areas was a necessary compromise in order to avoid defeat of this legislation in the Assembly. What is the purpose of this bill? Essentially, it is to reduce navigational hazards from gill netting and reduce the social conflict that has been increasing in recent years between gill netters and recreational fishermen. Some people see this law as important for the weakfish spawning run on the flats in the Great South Bay because it will give the weaks at least sixty hours a week in which to spawn on the flats unmolested. In spite of how very important this might be, the law may have even more importance in the long-range interest of recreational fishermen. We have discussed it in these pages before and it is no secret to anyone. The trend on the Coast is very clear: that commercial fishermen will gradually have to move out of the inshore grounds in favor of recreational activities. Already Florida and a few other states have passed legislation that helps to initiate this process. In this same editorial section we have quoted from learned papers the same point of view and thus it seems the wave of the future.

This bill is a good beginning, it seems to us. Probably the zealots on either side will argue that the bill either goes too far or not far enough, and yet, in the light of cold logical scrutiny, it is the perfect law since it pushes neither side too far from their dedicated positions. It may not seriously affect the ability of the gill netters to make a living, but they will have to step up their weekday activities a little. In the end, they may not choose to do so, and that would mean fewer fish going to market. The resource wouldn't object to that.

On the other side, the recreational fishermen can get in a few innings at certain species such as the weakfish in Great South Bay without harassment from commercial gill netters. Make no mistake about it, the conflict between gill netters and recreational fishermen has been growing. We have ourselves witnessed this conflict and we have seen firsthand the arrogance of the gill netter. It has always struck me that the situation is so similar to the Old West. The regular law-abiding citizens are going about their business in the town and in rides this big, mean cowboy. He immediately tries to push around the local law-abiding citizenry in a callous and irresponsible manner. The people of the town try their best to either wait the bad guy out in hopes that he'll flee to the next town, or to reason with him. In the end, a few people get so fed up that they strike back. The result is conflict.

The gill netters' argument is always the same. They say, "I have to make a living; what the hell do you want me to do? You guys have to get out of the way so that we can get the fish!" That's what they say except that the language they use has been edited. The argument is bull----! We're sick of hearing it. First of all, there is the point of common courtesy. No human being has the right to abuse another human being regardless of cause. The concept that the end justifies the means was discarded by most of the free world in the 1930s and 1940s when we discovered the bestiality of people like Hitler and Mussolini. Second, recreational fishing is an industry, too, and there are millions of people who make a living from that industry. How dare the gill netter say that his business is more important than someone else's business. We think of the hundreds of Mom and Pop boat liveries and tackle shops who need that fisherman in his or her boat or on the beach in order to feed their children. Does the gill netter ever give a thought to these children? Most of the people who make a living in saltwater recreational angling are not affluent people and the inshore conflict has hurt them and their businesses. Customers get upset, angry, disappointed, and turned off. When they're turned off, they don't go fishing and thus they don't buy tackle or bait.

It has always somehow seemed odd to us that the Governor and some

legislators in Albany have been traditionally responsive to the cries of commercial fishermen and yet would seemingly let the thousands of citizens of the state who make a living from saltwater recreational angling flounder in economic ruin. This becomes even stranger when you think that we are talking about a commercial industry in New York State which is only about one-tenth the size of the recreational industry in terms of numbers of individuals employed and numbers of dollars generated to the economy. How odd then that these politicians can't count the votes. About ten to one, at least, and yet they seem to swing with the minority. Is that representative government?

Governor Carey, it is foolish to resist the trend that is rapidly establishing itself along the Coast. It is foolish to deny what experts in fisheries biology and fisheries economics are forecasting. We wonder if once again we are going to sit idly by in New York State and watch other, far less influential states take the lead. Can't the Empire State show the way this one time? If the Governor can't see the wisdom of this, then 2.3 million saltwater recreational anglers will have to remind him of this come Election Day. The times aren't the same. Oh no, we won't forget that easily anymore.

The East End commercial fishermen have already begun the process of applying pressure. It was inevitable that the weak-kneed NYSDEC Division of Marine and Coastal Resources would again buckle under the pressure. The DEC recommended the East End exemption to the bill IN SPITE OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS TO THE PHILOSOPHY THAT WAS EMBODIED IN THE ORIGINAL BILL. As recently as the last week in May, Mr. Taormina was reminded of this and yet still saw fit to have biologist John Poole send a memorandum urging the East End exemption to Albany and Mr. Taormina himself stated his revised philosophy in the East Hampton Star. Needless to say, the East Hampton Star audience ate that up, but we wonder if recreational fishermen will appreciate it quite so much. Hey, our memories are getting longer and slowly, but surely, we're losing our naivete!

Just as we wish to remember how the DEC speaks simultaneously from two sides of its mouth while holding up signs that propose self-righteousness, and how we will remember what the Governor does with this bill, so, too, we will remember Senator Owen Johnson and the courageous fight he is waging to protect the interests of recreational saltwater fishermen in this state.

People, we have often referred to you as family and that is indeed how the ownership and staff of The Long Island Fisherman has always thought of you. Your letters tell us that many of you feel the same way. In order for a family to succeed, the members of the family must share in the work load. Everyone must do something and every job is just as important as every other job. Senator Johnson and The Long Island Fisherman have done what we can do. The legislation has been written, introduced, and politicked through the Senate and Assembly. This took many hours; worthwhile hours. Now, IT'S UP TO YOU! Now it's time for you to spring into action. Now we need letters. We need thousands of letters. We need to apply pressure on the Governor to pass this bill into law. Remember that one of the Governor's key aides is from the East End and we must generate clear and overwhelming pressure to ride this bill to victory.

REMEMBER THE BLUEFISH HEARINGS?! Remember how the message got through. Each of you took a few minutes from your busy schedules and the result was victory. We can do it again, NOW! Take a minute or two and write the letter to the Governor. It need not be a fancy letter or a long letter. Just tell the Governor that this legislation is important, that it will cut social conflict and reduce navigation hazards, and that it is needed in all inland waters from one end of the island to the other. Tell it in your own way, but tell the Governor. Let him get the message the way the Fisheries Management Councils got the message. Write to:

Honorable Hugh Carey,
Governor of New York
Executive Chambers
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Please refer to the Encon Gill Net and Trammel Bill when addressing the Governor. The bill's Senate number is S-3015, while its Assembly number is A-1844.

We at "The Fisherman" would also appreciate your taking the time to send a copy of your letter to us at P.O. Box 1994, Bridge St., Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

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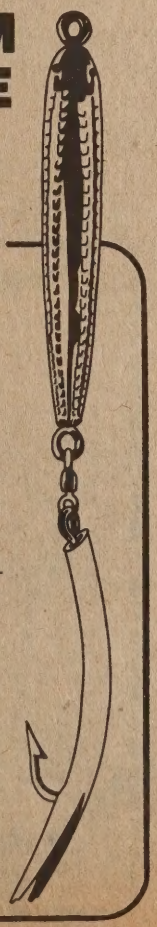

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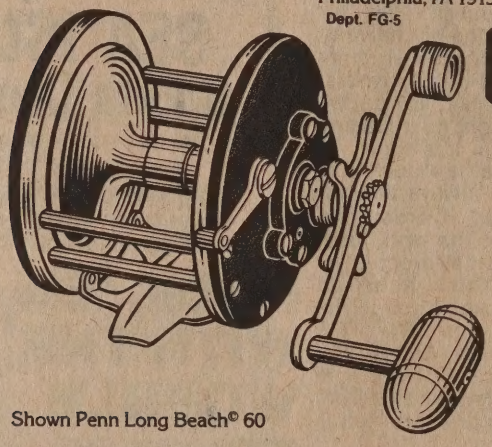

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Consisting of 308 pages with 5 sections plus appendices, the 1981 Edition provides much information of interest to anglers.

An 80-page "Guide to Fishes" aids anglers in identifying major game fish species, and includes a glossary of scientific and descriptive words and terms as well as a chart of the salmons, trouts, and chars, and a synopsis of the tuna tribe.

All new illustrated articles cover a wide range of topics from fishing photography to standardizing the names of fishes. Exceptional photographs by outdoors writers Mark Sosin illustrate his expert advice on capturing your favorite fishing moments on film. Ken Schultz of **Field & Stream** tells how to ensure that the fish you release will live to fight another day, and master rod-builder Dale P. Clemens presents the basics for building your own custom rod. On the scientific side, C. Richard Robins, a member of the Committe on Names of Fishes, discusses the problems involved in standardizing common and scientific species names; Robert J. Behnke of Colorado State University explains how hybridization of fishes occurs and discusses its real and potential uses for fishery management: and Harold Harvey of the University of Toronto warns of the effects of acid rain on inland fisheries.

Appendices include an illustrated knot-tying guide, "Game Fish Records of Nations and Continents," a "U.S. Sportfishing Information Directory," a summary of major game fish tag and release programs, and more.

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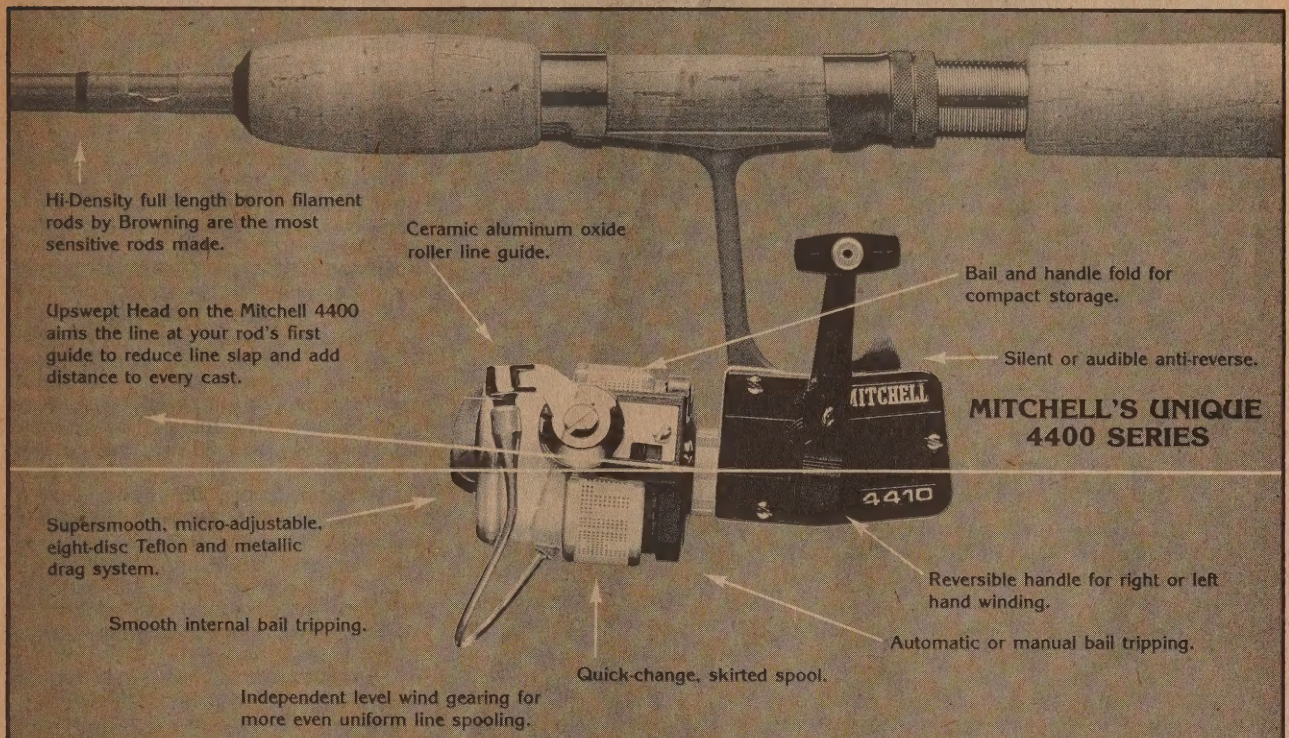
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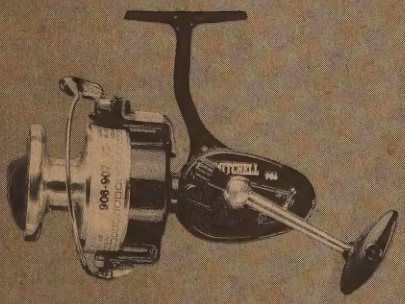

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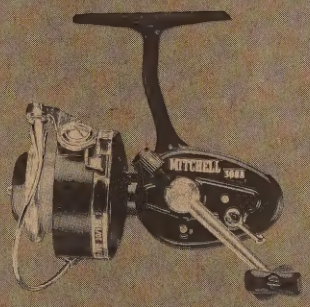

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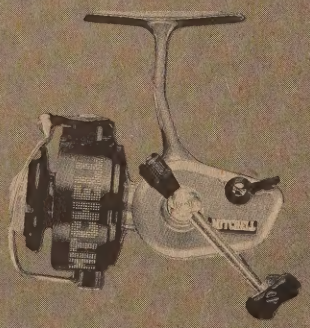

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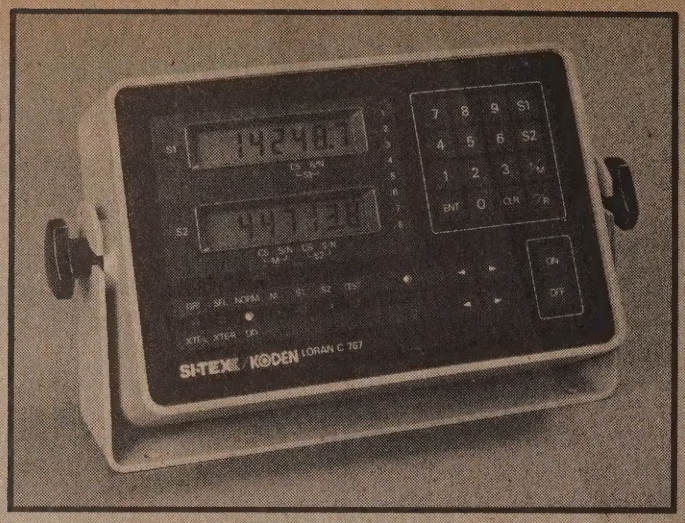

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WORLD RECORD GAME FISHES 1981 is included as part of IGFA's annual membership package. Regular membership in the association is currently $15 annually and includes the bimonthly newsletter **International Angler** as well as other membership benefits.

Single copies of the 1981 book are available at selected tackle stores, marinas and book stores, or direct from the publisher: INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316. The price of $6.95 per copy includes postage and handling.

To quote one reviewer, it's "one of the best book bargains for anglers."

MORICHES ANGLERS ANNOUNCE NEW OFFICERS AND 1980 AWARD WINNERS

The Moriches Anglers Club would like to announce the club officers for 1981:

President—Pat Striplin; Vice President—Mike Contessa; Treasurer—Stan Drozdowski; Corres. Secy—Fred Kiepe; Rec. Secy—John Schaub; Sgt.-at-Arms—Gil Renderman.

Results of club competition for 1980 were as follows: Anglers of the Year: C. Perrone; 1st Runner-up: T. Cashman; 2nd runner-up: Dr. L. Pastore.

The following members caught the largest fish of each eligible species mentioned.

Striped bass—C. Contegni; bluefin tuna—C. Contegni; shortfin mako—J. Santoro. Bluefish—T. Cashman; weakfish—C. Lewis; fluke—W. Shulkin; codfish—J. Schaub and flounder—R. Larson.

THE GREAT BUSHING VS. BALL BEARING CONTROVERSY

There seem to be just about as many differing opinions about whether bushings are as good as ball bearings in fishing reels as there are fishermen to argue the issue. But when you honestly evaluate the **genuine** benefits of each, you may end up saving a few bucks on the next baitcasting reel you buy, or spending a little more on your next spinning reel.

In baitcasting reels, bushings or bearings are placed at each end of the revolving spool shaft. This is done to provide a free-turning, smooth-running spool when you cast, and to give support to the spool shaft when it's stressed by playing a fish.

Now, if you don't set the drag on your baitcasting reel real right when playing a fish, which puts a lot of stress on the spool shaft ends, then chances are you'll not benefit substantially from having long-wearing ball bearings there.

But if you fish hard-wiggling lures, like deep-diving crankbaits, or fish with your reel with the drag in dead-lock, then ball bearing models will undoubtedly give you many more years of smooth operating performance and less wear. The difference in

price will be about $10.

In terms of actual **casting** performance, tests conducted on their new Prolite light baitcasting reels indicate an insignificant 5% to 8% difference between bushings and ball bearings—not enough to affect your fishing performance in a noticeable way, since casts in excess of 100 ft. are possible with both kinds of reel.

Spinning reels are another matter. In spinning reels, the bearing points are located at each end of the handle (gear) shaft, as well as at the front part of the reel body where the rotor revolves to wind in line.

The stresses at each of these locations are quite heavy when you're retrieving heavy, deep-running crankbaits or playing a fish. More actual part wear can result from both turning the handle and from the stress of the line pulling obliquely on the rotor while retrieving or fighting a fish. In a nutshell, there's more chance of part wear in a spinning reel.

As a result, ball bearing mounted spinning reels can be expected to last longer without bearing replacement than identical reels fitted with either metal or plastic bushings. And, because of the greater torquing pressures, they can also be expected to turn and revolve more smoothly when mounted with high-quality ball bearings.

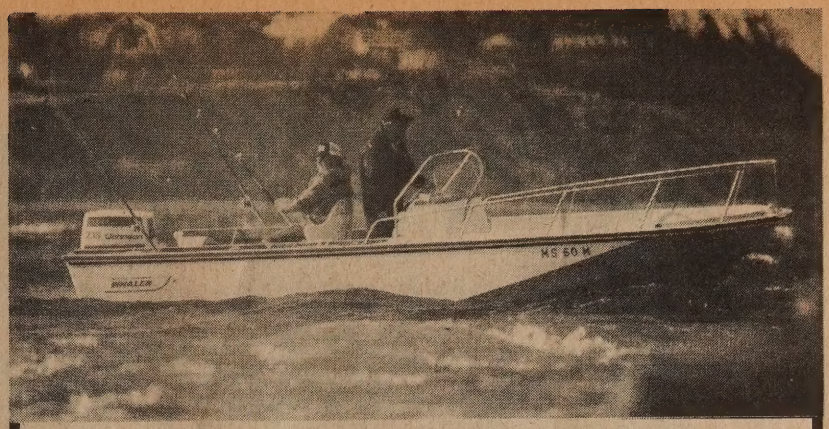
In the case of an angler who fishes hard—say three to four times a week—a ball bearing spinning reel may be worth the additional $10 investment in longevity and smooth operation.

NEW SALTWATER REELS

Some items of fishing tackle can be carried to extremes when innovation becomes...well, too innovative. A good example of this is in the saltwater reel market. Shakespeare was aware of this when they decided to make their highly successful Multiplier Series of reels available to United States anglers. This proven performer, in various sizes, has been Europe's most dependable saltwater reel for several seasons. The comfortable price guarantees these reels will fast become one of America's best sellers.

The Multiplier Series of saltwater reels features a stainless steel spool combined with double stainless steel sideplates. The pillars are brass, nickeled and then chromed. Models 2154 and 2155, the first of the series to be offered in the United States, are also equipped with a level-wind addition to prevent line build-up on one side of the spool. The capacities are what you'd expect in a quality saltwater reel—nearly 200 yards of 20 lb. mono on the 2154 and over 250 on the 2155.

Hand-filling torpedo-shaped handles and carefully calibrated counterweights make these reels suitable for casting, trolling and deep jigging. Party boat skippers will especially appreciate the simplicity of operation, the positive star-drag and



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the level-wind feature when considering their standard boat equipment.

It's sometimes too easy to design new gimmicks and startling "breakthroughs" in an attempt to produce a saltwater reel. Shakespeare engineers resisted those temptations in developing the Multiplier Series. What they were looking for was a functional, reliable, long-lasting reel that would do the job for America's growing army of saltwater anglers. They also wanted to accomplish these goals while keeping the price at a level that most anglers could afford.

DIAMOND MATE FROM PFEIFFER'S TACKLE CRAFTERS

Most custom and home-built fishing rods today sport some sort of decorative wrap above the handle. But often these look "amateurish" just because they aren't aligned properly. The newly introduced DIAMOND MATE, another exclusive rod building tool from Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, makes it possible to check such wraps when starting them and to correct any slight misalignment.

The DIAMOND MATE consists of a clear, Lexan, unbreakable angle that will properly check the alignment of the center of diamonds or chevrons on any rod, regardless of type or taper. The center line on the angle is easy to see for instant checking of all wraps. The 12 inch long Diamond Mate can be used on any rod.

The Diamond Mate, complete with instructions, is available for $1.25 plus $.50 shipping and handling, from Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, 14303 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, Maryland 21131; (301) 667-6464.

J&T REDESIGNS 4-71TI MARINE DIESEL FOR MORE POWER, FUEL EFFICIENCY

Johnson & Towers' recently redesigned 4-71TI offers a 20 percent increase in rated power at 300 h.p. in a much more compact and lighter package and is gradually displacing the company's long-popular 310 h.p. 6-71N as the premium diesel of choice in its power range for boats to 42 ft., according to Al Harris, vice president-marketing for the marine diesel specialist headquartered in Mt. Laurel, NJ.

Sleeved and engineered for extra long service life, the 4-71TI has a new, more efficient turbocharger with improved air/fuel ratio, new larger fuel injectors and a new, optional transmission design that makes it nine inches lower and 13 inches shorter than the already-low profile naturally-aspirated six. The four-cylinder package is 11.6 percent more fuel efficient than the bigger, heavier 6-71N per brake horsepower, Harris said.

With its redesign the smaller engine now delivers the same wheel-turning torque as the 6-71N, and some boat builders who have installed and tested the new 4171TI are reporting up to a knot increase in

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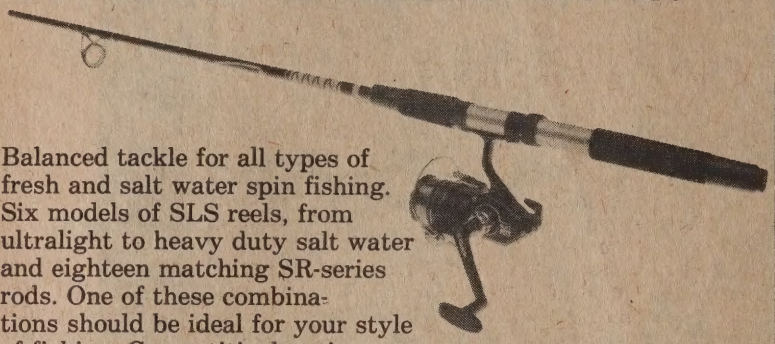

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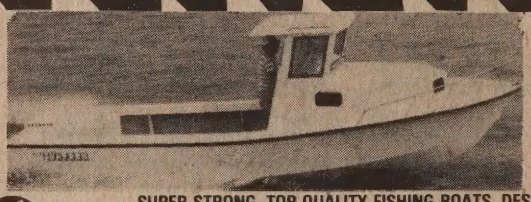

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speed over the 6-71N despite the fact it is rated at 10 h.p. less.

"The 6-71N will never become obsolete," Harris said, "and will continue to be popular in certain yacht models, but the redesigned 4-71TI has really caught on with boat builders, dealers and owners seeking smaller, more compact and lighter weight diesels for boats, especially those with lower height engine compartments such as the popular 28 ft. sport fishermen made by many leading builders."

The re-engineered 4-71TI rated at 300 bhp at 2500 RPM measures only 51-7/8 inches long, including marine gear. Installed with its new standard transmission, it requires five inches less headroom than the 6-71N in the engine compartment, or with its optional Newage transmission with 10-degree downangle output shaft, its installed height is fully nine inches lower than the in-line six.

The turbocharged four is also 335 lbs. lighter than the natural six, or 670 lbs. per pair, and is substantially lower cost.

"The space and weight savings offered by the 4-71TI," Harris said, "not only improves overall fuel efficiency and boat performance, but also lessens installation and boat manufacturing time and improves the serviceability on engine components by affording more room to work on them even in confined engine rooms."

A number of leading boat builders have to date installed the redesigned four, singly or in pairs, in sport fishing boats and cruisers at 28, 33, 36, 37, 40 and 42 ft.

Founded in 1926, Johnson & Towers has been a marine power specialist for the past 55 years. For more information on the 4-71TI and other J&T marine diesels, contact the company at: P.O. Box 38, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

SMR'S INEXPENSIVE WEATHER FACSIMILE RECORDER

The SMR SF-505 is one of the least expensive and most compact weather recorders introduced to the recreational or commercial boater.

Offering many features usually found in more expensive units, the SF-505 provides receiving capabilities on six crystal controlled channels with a frequency range of 3 to 24 MHz. Designed for wall or bulkhead mounting, the SMR weather recorder will offer approximately 29 hours of continuous receiving time on one roll of paper. Easily operated and housed in a heavy duty cast aluminum cabinet, the SF-505 features automatic and manual phasing, black and white inversion capabilities, 120 rpm paper speed, VFO spot and fine tuning, built-in signal meter and contrast control.

For further information, contact: Southern Marine Research, Inc. (SMR), 1401 N.W. 89th Court, Miami, FL 33172.

NATIONAL SCENE

Japanese Fill Tuna Quota

by Al Ristori

After a slow start, Japanese longliners apparently did quite well with the spawning giant tuna in the Gulf of Mexico during April. According to the May issue of the NMFS "Southeast Observer News," 24 Japanese longliners had good fishing, with tuna making up 48% of the total catch. Of these bluefins accounted for 49% and yellowfins for 48%. The total **observed** catch of giant bluefin was 1,599 at the end of the month. Since the Japanese agreed to limit their giant tuna catch to 7,000 this year, and our observer coverage comes to only about 20%—it can be assumed that the Japanese had AT LEAST filled their quota by the end of April. Nevertheless, some longliners were still fishing there into May.

The incidental billfish catch came to 14%, with our observers actually checking out 269 swordfish—the dominant billfish in the catch. Though all fish other than tuna have to be released, the billfish mortality rate in the Gulf of Mexico hovered around 75%, while sharks were over 20%, and miscellaneous other species at about 75%. Mortality on all species was lower in the cooler waters of the Atlantic, where the first Japanese longliner started fishing on April 16 off Cape Hatteras.

More About Sharks

Following up last week's piece on shark tagging, there were some other interesting returns last year. A dusky shark tagged by Harriet Disegni, of New York, southeast of Shinnecock Inlet was recaptured on a handline 56 miles north of Cape Catoche, Mexico 55 months later and 1,464 miles south! A sandbar (brown) tagged by Dave Moss, of New Jersey, 25 miles east of Ocean City, Maryland was longlined 22 months later 15 miles northwest of Isabela, Cuba, a straight line distance of 1,010 miles.

A couple of New York anglers had long distance brown shark returns from fish tagged off Fire Island. Ray Wittman's was recaptured after 69 months, 1,400 miles to the southwest in the Gulf of Mexico off Clearwater Pass, Florida. Bill Mahler's brown was out for 17 months before getting involved in a trawl net east of Cape Canaveral. The second longest time at liberty last year was posted by a brown that was out 104 months. It was tagged by Richard Krueger, of New York, east of Jones Inlet and recaptured in a trawl net 20 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina. Two browns tagged by Dan Ruhle from a fishing pier in Corpus Christi, Texas was recaptured within 19 days and 128 miles of each other off Veracruz, Mexico.

Research cruises were conducted aboard two foreign vessels (the "Wieczno" from Poland and the "Jane R" from Nova Scotia) and two American ships. Sharks represented 83% of the 743 fish caught, all of which were tagged or kept for studies. Of the 14 species taken, the most abundant were the scalloped hammerhead (170), blue (118), sandbar (101), silky (80), mako (46), dusky (34), and bignose (24). Among the teleosts were 113 swordfish.

Stomach examinations on makos and swordfish taken offshore in March showed that those with food had fed selectively on small bluefish. In August, the diet of most of the sharks and swordfish taken offshore consisted almost entirely of squid.

The prime objective of the cruise on the "Bird of Passage," from Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was to study the digestive rate of blue sharks with the use of sonic telemetry. In a series of experiments, Dr. Frank Carey, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, attracted blue sharks to the boat by chumming—with one selected to be fed a specified number of whole mackerel. The shark was then tagged with a sonic transmitted and tracked for a pre-determined number of hours. When the fish surfaced, it was harpooned and hauled on deck as rapidly as possible to prevent eversion of its stomach. Results of these initial experiments indicate that blue sharks are capable of digesting 2.6 lbs. of mackerel, or 3% of their body weight per day.

During the 1960s, Jack Casey longlined quantities of small white sharks close to the New Jersey coast. He kept that quiet so as not to spread panic among the population, but now the story can be told—because a cruise for that very purpose last year turned up only a single white. The "Donna Lee," from Highlands, New Jersey, was chartered by Sea World to obtain a live white shark for display in Orlando, Florida. However, only 46 sharks were captured, and the lone white came up dead. Compared to the 1962-65 data, sharks were much less abundant off the Jersey coast, but Casey speculates this may have been due to the hot, calm weather experienced last summer.

Since 1972, a considerable amount of work has been done on the food habits of the blue shark—spearheaded by Nancy Kohler and Chuck Stillwell. To date, 523 stomach samples have been analyzed. While 88% of those caught offshore (in greater than 50 fathoms) contained food, only 51½ of the blues taken in shallower waters had eaten recently. The primary food consists of fish and squid, with herring, hake, bluefish and mackerel being the usual fish species. Other less common fish in the blue's diet include butterfish, flatfish, lancetfish, goosefish (angler), scup (porgy), sand lance (sand eel), snake mackerel, swordfish, sea raven, and lanternfish.

In the shallower waters where most anglers concentrate their efforts, fish (especially bluefish and hakes) are the primary food, while the deep water blues feed on squid, along with the more unusual species noted above. In addition to various squids, blues also feed on the pelagic octopus, Alloposis mollis. The most food found in any stomach amounted to 15 lbs. and consisted of 21 yellowtail flounder, 3 hakes, 1 unidentified fish, and bait. All that amounted to 8.8% of the shark's body weight—an extremely high percentage. The average food weight per stomach (including those empty) was 0.37 lbs. or 0.4% of body weight. Slightly more food per stomach was found inshore (0.42 lbs.) than offshore (0.26 lbs.).

With a great many shark tournaments coming up, now's the time to get a supply of tags and cooperate in the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program. Write to Jack Casey at NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Narragansett, RI 02882. Those interested in tagging tunas and billfish should write for tags to Edwin L. Scott, NOAA/NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Center, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149.

Important Hearings

Two important hearings are scheduled for this area in mid-June. On June 18 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Corps of Engineers Public Hearing at Wagner College, Staten Island on the proposed demonstration project relative to dumping in the deep pits of West Bank, near Chapel Hill Channel.

On June 25 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Public Hearing on the PCB

(Continued on page 58.)

FISH TALK SLANTS

by William A. Muller

PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING! In recent weeks and months there have been many stories appearing in fishing publications and newspapers about how a variety of people are searching for answers to key marine finfish and environmental problems. This is an encouraging situation and it represents a radical change from just a decade or so ago. In those earlier years, most officials and experts simply disregarded the sea and its problems. It was felt that the ocean was a vast and unfillable garbage dump as well as a place where productivity would always outstrip man's abilities to harvest its treasures. However, in the 1960s and the 1970s man's technological advancement caught up with and now has surpassed the ocean's ability to produce. The result has been a sharp decline in the stocks of many finfish, shellfish, and some marine mammals like the manatee and the whales.

RUSSIANS MAY HAVE DONE US A FAVOR! That many seem to be an impossible statement at first glance, but upon closer examination there may be more truth to it than some of us can imagine. When the Russians and their East European allies began to rape our Continental Shelf for its finfish almost twenty years ago, they set in motion a series of events that has led to an entirely different outlook among scientists and fishermen. They, with their technology, caught so many fish that stocks, and consequently domestic commercial and recreational catches, began to decline for many species. When it became clear that the Russians would not offer to abandon their harvest techniques, Americans began to search for a way to stop them with legislation. This desire became fact with the passage of the Fishery Management Act of 1976. The American Nation, being a democratic Republic and a country with many branches, each with a different organization, began to battle out the exact mechanism for implementing and designing that legislation. At times such planning and debating can seem like a titanic waste of time, yet in this case a philosophy was allowed and encouraged to develop. This philosophy was presented by the scientific community and offered to the Department of State and other interested government segments. The philosophy of stock management emerged and it was a way of controlling the Continental Shelves that was agreeable to the Department of State because many nations could share in the resources while the plans would favor our domestic fishermen. This idea seemed to make just about everybody happy because it allowed foreigners a share of the stocks, limited catches preventing overharvest, and would promote more jobs at home. The planning of the law was far from perfect and perhaps one could argue that there exist many more and better approaches; yet it was and it a good beginning and with the precedents clearly in place the laws can be altered and it can evolve perhaps into a still more desirable alternative.

THE LAW WAS ALL WE NEEDED! Unfortunately, some recreational fishermen believed that the passage of the law was all that was needed to turn things around for the good—yet they were mistaken. The law merely created the Management Councils and set criteria for operation and enforcement. The exact design of management plans and the precise implementation of that 200-mile law was, and is open for interpretation. Thus, all of us will need to be on guard to inspect and criticize management plan proposals, volunteer to serve on committees and sub-panels, and investigate all suspicious rumors. If we do this, then we can prevent the law from evolving in such a direction as to disregard the recreational fishing industry in favor of other interest groups, but most of all we need to stand guard for the habitats and the fish that live in it. Problems seldom go away; they change and they evolve, but they seldom go away.

TODAY'S PHILOSOPHY! Thus, we have the world's view of the oceans in 1981. It is a view that is much different than that of 1970. It is a view that holds that fish stocks must be, and can be, managed. It is a view that governments' have the responsibility to manage the marine creatures within 200 miles of their terrestrial borders. It is a view that holds the sea has its limits of tolerance and productivity and it is a view that the seas are more than an instrument of politics and war; they are living habitats and the views of scientists need to be heard and respected. Thus, by causing people to reexamine their opinion of the seas, the Russians were responsible for a tidal wave of new thinking. Today we can look closer to shore to see signs of the change. The Atlantic States striped bass citizens' committee is an example. For decades, the citizens of separate states looked upon the striped bass as their own private resource in spite of the fact that bass migrate north/south from one state to another. However, people in each state were so intent upon the greed that came with the high price of the fish that they were unable to work together to cause change and manage the resource throughout its range. The NEW thinking permitted the coming together of citizens from coastal states. In coming together they have been forced to listen to each other and to learn. They also were able to begin to develop a plan whose primary purpose was the salvation of the resource: personal needs and local needs to states would come second. What has begun to evolve then is an albeit imperfect plan that focuses on striped bass and not people. It proposes changes to limit harvest of bass both in the estuaries and in the sea. It is a plan that will cause some amount of hardship to many people, but it is a plan that spreads that hardship around as best as possible. Most important of all, people with very diverse points of view about stripers have sat down and developed something. Such a possibility was impossible ten years ago. With even an imperfect plan in place, the plan can then evolve and as people learn more and more and come to understand better and better that the resource must come before the people, if the people are to have a realistic hope of benefiting from that resource in the years ahead, the striped bass will benefit.

RESEARCH TOO! The philosophy that the Russians helped to create and mold unwittingly has spilled over into hard core science, too. More and more good scientists are proposing research that is sorely needed if we are to better understand the seas and their resources. The striped bass problem is a good example. Managing the harvests is an important first step, but we still aren't sure about the effects of weather, pollutants, sunspots, marine microorganisms, etc. If the main reason for the decline of bass isn't over-harvest, we might find ourselves in a position of defending an approach that will be impotent to stop the decline and by not having the

(Continued on page 58.)

GOT THE RIGHT WINCH?

by Bob Whittier

Boating enthusiasts take it for granted that a trailer winch is a winch, period. Of course, it's perfectly natural to assume that the winch that comes with a well-known, reputable make of trailer has been carefully chosen by the trailer manufacturer to suit the capacity of one's particular trailer.

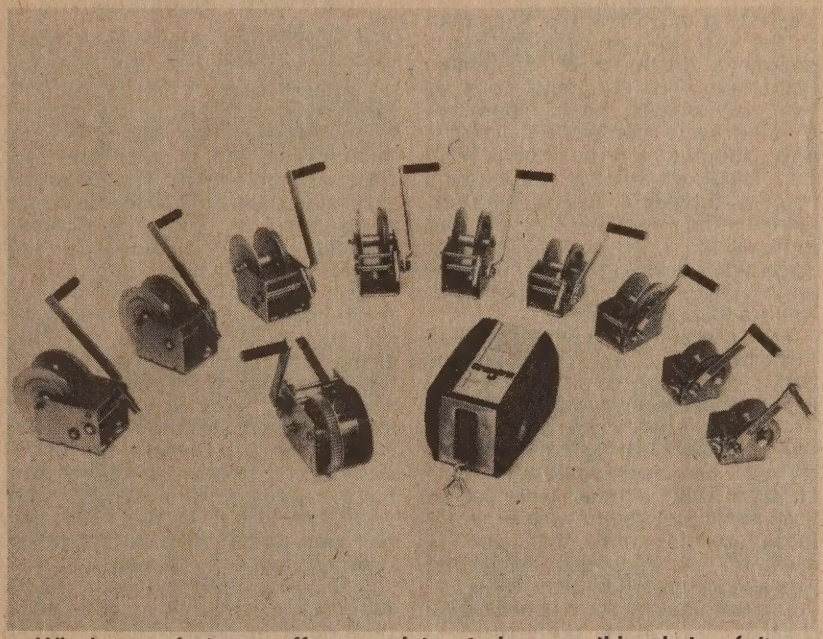
In general, that is true. But it's also worthwhile to realize that there's almost as much difference between a collection of winches as there is between the assortment of reels on display in a well-stocked tackle shop.

To begin with, one should realize that the trailer makers do not make their own winches. Rather, they buy them ready-made from specialty firms. These include the Dutton-Lainson Company and the Fulton Company in the field of manually-cranked winches, and the Powerwinch and Superwinch firms in the field of electrically-operated ones. From the stock models offered by these firms, a trailer maker selects a winch that seems best suited to a particular trailer, taking into consideration the average requirements of a majority of purchasers.

Usually the choice is a happy one. But there's a thought. In North-eastern coastal and lake regions, the tide and topography often result in ramps being steeper than is the norm in flatter parts of the country. And small craft used for fishing on big waters tend to carry heavy loads of gasoline, fish and ice boxes, ground tackle and electricals.

So a point worth keeping in mind is that winches come in various gear ratios. The smaller ones associated with light boats are geared in the region of 3- or 3.5-to-1. That is, 3 to 3.5 turns of the crank are needed to produce one turn of the drum. Winches for medium-sized boats can have ratios in the region of 4:5-to-1, while the big ones, for capacities above around 1500 lbs., tend to have ratios like 5.5-to-1.

And the larger winches, those for craft of 1800, 2000 and more pounds, usually have two speeds. They can be shifted from a ratio of around 5:4-to-one to anything between 10- and 20-to-1. With these, you can use the low speed to pull a heavy boat "over the hump," then shift to the high speed to complete the job of hauling it forward to the bow stop without wearing your arm out making many turns of the crank to move the boat a few inches. If you regularly haul a heavily-loaded boat on steep ramps, consider a two-speed winch.



Winch manufacturers offer a variety of sizes, as this photo of the Dutton-Lainson firm's line shows. Details vary with capacity and you have to know what's what to choose the best one for your needs.

If you'd rather not spend that kind of money, ask a well-stocked dealer to show you one of the pulleys that winch makers supply as an accessory. This will have a snap hook attached to it that connects to the boat's bow eye. The winch cable runs from the winch drum to the pulley , and then back to the winch stand. Using one doubles the mechanical advantage. That is, if you've got a winch having 3:5-to-1 ratio, the pulley will change the overall setup to a 7-to-1 ratio, greatly increasing the pulling power.

There's another trick you could use. If your winch has a steel cable, this will not fill up the drum as fast or as much as will an equivalent length of synthetic rope of greater diameter. Switching to rope will make your drum fill up faster; therefore, the radius will increase faster, too. The more rope that comes onto the drum, the greater will become the circumference of the drum's working surface, that is, the surface of the coiled rope. The boat will come out of the water without a lot of effort, but as it gets farther onto the trailer, it will move forward more inches for each turn of the crank. So you get power when it's needed, and speed when it's appreciated.

You may have noticed that electric winches always come with steel cables, never with synthetic ropes. This is deliberate. It minimizes growth of drum diameter as cable is wound on, therefore, keeping the load on the electric motor safely constant.

It takes many tiresome turns of the handle to crank a larger boat onto a trailer with a powerful but slow winch of 10- or 20-to-1 gear ratio. Although you don't put much force onto the crank handle, the many, many turns needed to haul the boat can leave you puffing. This is where the beauty of an electric winch begins to show. By shopping around among overstocked marine supply houses, you may find one at a good discount.

Another advantage of an electric winch is that its switch can be operated from several feet away by means of a lanyard. You can stand beside your boat and hold it against wind or tide with one hand, and make the winch haul it out by pulling the lanyard. During the off-season, you can use such a winch around the garage or shop to lift things quickly and easily. It could be a most worthwhile investment!

SINKER BOUNCING

EEL FISHING

by Matt Ahern

Depending upon how you feel about it, the next eel you catch may be a gourmet's dream or a fisherman's nightmare. Few fish have been so maligned as has the common eel. Over the years, numerous slanderous and libelous stories have been circulated concerning the feeding habits of these offense-less creatures, stories which might well curl your hair in the telling. I dare say you've heard some beauties yourself. Most of these are old wives' tales, generations old; few are founded in fact.

I can't recall exactly where or when I caught my first eel, but I know the occurrence happened along time ago. Search as carefully as I may through my records, I can find no reference to that first eel, though I'm almost certain it was caught while springtime flounder fishing. I must have been a knee-pants youngster at the time, for those records verify that when I arrived in my mid-teens, eel fishing was already quite familiar.

It is not unusual for a fisherman to change his fishing preference—to lose interest in ling, let's say, or perhaps sea bass, or whatever. But when eels are mentioned, there exists only two schools of thought: one either enjoys catching them or one dislikes them with a vengeance. There is no middle ground.

And so it was when I was growing up in the fishing game.

Not one of the experienced fishermen I knew at the time seemed a bit interested in eel fishing. Too messy, was a common complaint. Not worth the effort, was another. My buddy Artie Leidecker was willing to try it, but we lacked the experience to go out on our own. Finally, in desperation, Artie and I decided to chance it. What was there to know? If eels were caught while flounder fishing, all one needed to do was fish a good flounder-producing area. Simple enough. We knew just the place.

So one day in early June, 1930, Artie and I made plans to try our luck from the Cross Bay Bridge at Howard Beach. We rigged our droplines with flounder hooks and three ounce sinkers and purchased a dozen sandworms at the local bait shop. We knew eel fishing was better at night—or on dark, cloudy days—(which was about all we did know about eel fishing), so that evening we traveled by subway, elevated line, and bus to our destination, well prepared to spend the night if need be.

It was dusk when we arrived. Scores of eel fishermen were scattered on both sides of the bridge, with most favoring the west side because of the outgoing tide. We joined this latter group and minutes later our baits were on bottom. The fisherman nearest us drew first blood. He swung a fair-sized eel over the concrete parapet, quickly subdued it, and placed it in his burlap bag.

Eels continued to come up and much time passed before we kids got our chance. Artie caught a "shoe-string" and then I handlined one onto the bridge. We were elated with our success and, because of our lack of experience, we were content to catch our smaller fish. Occasionally, one of us would lift in an eel of decent size, but most were small. We didn't know until later that if we had used clam bait, we would have caught larger fish. You live and you learn.

Since that long-ago June night, Artie and I have put in quite some time dunking bait for eels. As the years passed, we learned all we could about eel-spearing, making bobs for eels, and spearing eels through the ice on cold winter days. Needless to say, the latter sport is only for those of young blood. I am long past that time when freezing one's fanny off is considered part of the fun. (Although I'll go winter codfishing at the drop of a skimmer clam.)

Most eels are caught from creek banks, piers, and bulkheads—wherever water deeper than the surrounding area is found. Skiff fishermen catch eels by fishing the deeper holes with at least ten to twelve feet of water at high tide. Eels are sometimes caught in shallow water near bars and flats, but they prefer slightly deeper water.

Tackle is simple. In fact, this is an excellent opportunity to use that old and discarded flounder tackle you hesitated to throw away. Because eels put up a good scrap, don't sell them short. Eels get lots of leverage with that sinuous body and if you tie into a good one, you had better keep a firm grip on your rod. They are surprisingly powerful and take off like a shot the instant the hook is felt, resisting all the way.

Rigging is simplicity itself. A #9 flounder hook (Chestertown) or a #6 Sproat is all you need. Eels are notorious hook-swallowers and that long-shanked Chestertown is perhaps a better choice. Use one hook and tie it in about one inch above a suitable bank sinker. Bait must always be on bottom to achieve best results, although eels will on occasion swim high—as many a surprised snapper fisherman knows.

Bait is no problem: eels will accept anything of an animal nature, including worms, killies, spearing and, of course, all kinds of clam. If clam is used, it should be sliced into thin inch-and-a-half pieces.

Eels are cunning, agile bait thieves. They must be struck at once. Do not hesitate. Many times eels will escape the hook no matter how quick your reflexes. Especially is this so in the beginning of your eel-fishing ventures. Soon, though, you will develop a sixth sense, and once this is attained, few eels will outwit you.

Eels seem extra-sensitive to vibration. Take advantage of this by bouncing your sinker on bottom about a dozen times. Then allow it to remain quiet. If an eel is homing in on your bait, it will be grabbed the instant it remains still. If there are no takers, just repeat. When the first eel is taken by this method, there will be others milling around, waiting to pounce as the bait descends again. Sometimes this method is the only one which will produce a quantity of eels when bait fishing.

Not only do eels fight capture while in the water, they can also put up a good tussle when you attempt to remove the hook. For this reason, you should be equipped with a pair of cheap cotton gloves or several dry rags. A little damp sand rubbed in will give you a firm grip.

A simple method I use to prevent handling the hooked eels takes a little preparation, but is worth it:

Pre-snell as many loose hooks as you deem necessary—I usually make up about two dozen. These need not be tied with the professional barrel knot; a simple three inch loop tied with a common overhand knot will do. You can use ten pound test leader material or regular monofilament for this, with leader material preferred. Run the loop through the hook-eye, then over the hook and snub against the shank. Place both hook and sinker together, using a medium-sized snap swivel.

When you bring in an eel, hold it over your fish bucket. With a pair of heavy scissors cut the snell, allowing the eel to drop into the container. This

works well at night. There is no mess or fuss, and you get your hook back when cleaning the eel.

On windless nights, and with the aid of a Coleman lamp, many boat fishermen spear eels on the shallow water flats. It is important to pole along slowly while you watch for eels to appear in the circle of reflected light. It isn't necessary to throw the spear; this usually results in a clean miss. Line up the eel with the spear and push forward firmly. Once the knack is attained, eel after eel will come aboard.

During winter, shallow water creeks often contain large numbers of hibernating eels. A boat can be poled along as you test the bottom with a spear until a "nest" is found. Some "nests" contain dozens of fine, fat eels. For many years, Artie and I used to chop holes through the ice of Shell Creek Basin, which runs along Cross Bay Boulevard at Howard Beach. We speared hundreds of eels from this area. As with all ice fishing, be sure the ice will support your weight.

For sheer, exhilarating sport nothing offers as much fun as bobbing for eels. This used to be a popular pastime years ago and most old-timers are familiar with it.

To make a bob you will need a supply of night crawlers, or several dozen blood or sand worms. Here's how to do it: Using a heavy needle, run a four foot piece of heavy sewing thread lengthways through the worms, sliding each one down to the knotted end—much like stringing a necklace. When the thread is full, gather it into the semblance of a ball and wrap it with wool yarn. The more yarn used, the better.

Attach this and a four ounce sinker to your line. The rod should be stiff, with little "give" and at least six to eight feet long. You can also substitute a heavy stick. The line must be strong and no more than two feet longer than the rod.

Lower the bob into six to eight feet of water, making certain it is on bottom. If eels are about, they'll soon be tugging at the bob, whereupon you lift them in with one swift motion and shake them into your container.

What actually happens is that the small teeth of the eels become enmeshed in the wool yarn and they can't let go. A sneaky trick, I must admit.

I know there are other means in use to catch eels, but these are the most popular methods I know of. I've used them for a good many years and have had nothing but good results from them.

Try them when the opportunity presents itself. Join the ranks of our multitudes of eel fishermen. You'll have a ball.

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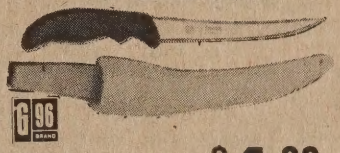

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Summer At Cedar Beach

by Herb Buch

Cedar Beach is a popular name on Long Island. The one that I am writing about is on the south shore. It stretches to the east from Gilgo Beach all the way to the Sore Thumb. It has, from time to time, earned its fame by producing considerable catches of stripers during spring and fall runs. Spring runs are a thing of the past on the south shore, and the fall fishing has been anything but reliable. Nonetheless, this is still a delightful place to fish, and one of the few south shore spots that will frequently produce fish during the long days of summer.

It is often not a place for big rods, waders, or big fish. It is location where you can wander a clean beach, in swim trunks, and work a light rod, with a good chance of picking away at fluke, small blues, and an occasional weak or striper even during the heat of summer.

My favorite stretch of the beach is from the overlook parking field, eastward to the Sore Thumb. This stretch has normally shelving beach, dropoffs to a deep channel, tide rips and flats. It rarely has waves of any size, and is most often flat calm due to the bar off the beach, which is a sandy island at low water. The current runs along the beach on both tides, and is fairly strong, except for the slack area produced by the Sore Thumb on the ebb tide. The Thumb deflects the outgoing water toward Democrat Point, but some of it swings back, and is funneled between the bar and the beach, to form a rip which clears a deep channel right up against the beach. There is a sharp dropoff from the flats near the Thumb, into this channel. Farther west, the channel cuts away from the beach again, leaving a more normal beach structure.

My favorite method for working this beach is to get there at dawn wearing sneakers and clothing to suit the weather. I carry a light seven foot rod, with eight pound test line on the reel. My surf bag has an assorted selection of lures, plus some bait rigs and some bait. My first choice is usually a small tin in the one-half to one ounce size range. This is good for anything that may be chasing bait. Walk and cast, keeping your eyes open for bait, birds or fish. At this time, small blues are your most likely prospect, but all sorts of things can happen. I alternately work the tin near the top, along the bottom, or up and down on the same cast. If nothing develops by the end of the stretch, I shift gears to a bait rig and work my way back.

A small weak is slid ashore by author's wife.

My bait rig consists of a one ounce lead, trailing a #4 Sproat hook on an eighteen inch leader. Bait is a strip of fish belly saved in my freezer in small packages, or a strip of squid. Cast it out and either retrieve it very slowly along the bottom, or alternately lift and drop while you reel in the slack. Any weight on the line should be treated as a hit, and given time and free line. After about ten seconds set your hook. If it was a fluke, you got him; if it was a crab, bait up and try again.

Sometimes a fluke grabs and runs, and sometimes it is not a fluke, but a blue, weak, bass, sea robin, or dogfish. They are all fun on a light rod, and they can all make a good addition to a meal if you enjoy fresh fish. If not, it is easy to unhook them in the water by just kneeling at the water's edge.

While summer fish are usually small, surprises do occur. One day my wife and I were fluking a short distance away from the late Whiting Evans, who was doing the same. I saw him set his hook and his rod was really bent over. When I was sure that it was a fish, I ran to get my camera, but by the time that I could hurry down the beach to where he was, the action was over. He had beached a weakfish of about nine pounds on his fluke bait.

On another occasion during an August afternoon, I saw some terns diving onto the sand. I watched this for a long time, not believing what I was seeing. Nonetheless, they continued to dive bomb the sand right at the edge of the water. I put a half-ounce Hopkins on my line and walked down the beach out of curiosity. When I approached the spot, the birds dispersed, so I stopped and place a cast along the beach out from where the birds had been. After a few turns of the reel handle, I got a hit which turned out to be a six pound striper. There is a very deep dropoff at the edge of the beach at that point, and the bass must have pushed a school of anchovies right up on to the sand. The baitfish, however, were staying deep, so that the birds had to wait until they were crowded onto the beach in order to get at them. We were able to get those same bass to hit small poppers for some exciting surface action. The school worked the

bait intermittently, all afternoon, and we quit fishing before dark. A few days later, we talked to a couple of men who fished that same night, and they took stripers also. The fish they got were larger than the ones taken during the day. They used slowly retrieved Red-Fin plugs to do the job.

The common bait along this beach consists of spearing, sand eels, and snappers. However, anchovies, bunkers, and other types of bait are probably common enough, even though we do not see them up against the sand. This shore line is next to Fire Island Inlet, and because of this, the outgoing tide is often an excellent time to fish. The current continues to run out (to the west) long after low water has been reached. It slacks off when the tide is halfway up, or about midway between high and low water times. If you want to still fish plan on being here for slack water, as it is difficult to do so when the current is running.

Our luck has varied with the presence of fish, not with the tide. If there is plenty of bait around, and you fish early or late, there is a good chance of finding some action. Surf fishing is not a sport for people who must catch fish. Many are the days when the pleasure of being out is all that you will get. We enjoy the air, the water, the good companions and the complete relaxation which fishing provides. The only fly in the ointment is the presence of weed in the water, which at times makes fishing difficult. The bait rig will sometimes work in spite of the grass, or perhaps we go to poppers, but you may just have to leave and try another spot. No place is perfect, so we take it as we find it and enjoy it when we can. The best winds are light south, southwest, west, northwest, or north for this type of easy fishing, and winds from these quarters don't pile up the weed either. Watch out for the east winds, especially if they are brisk because these winds will load the beach zone with weed.

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The author with part of a morning's catch made at Cedar Beach.

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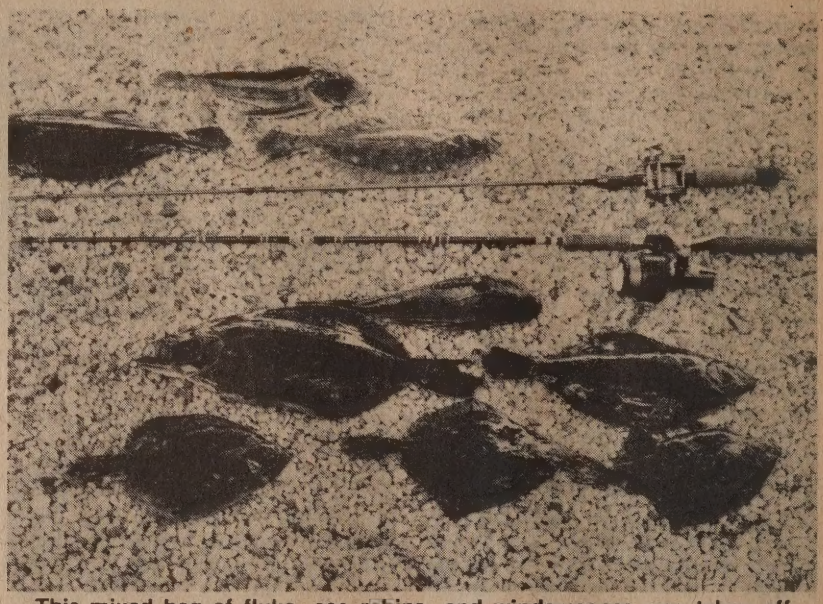
Waste Not, Want Not!

by Martin & Janet Garrell

The weakfishing had been somewhat spotty as we spent a weekday morning taking drifts through one of our favorite spots in Peconic Bay and concentrating on tackle-handling so that we wouldn't miss the single big tiderunner that might show up. A small fleet of boats shared our area, and for awhile no one seemed to have any action. Then a couple of rods in the boat drifting ahead of us began to bend sharply. We watched as the two anglers cranked away eagerly on their reels. Several minutes later, their catch broke the surface of the water: two good-sized sea robins! The exclamations of disgust were all too perceptible across the water as the anglers hauled the fish up to the gunwales, whacked them on the heads, and threw them back into the water. At that point it was our turn to be disgusted—not only had the anglers needlessly killed the fish, but they had also wasted some fine eating. On those days when the weakfish are uncooperative, a catch of sea robins means that one at least need not forego a fresh fish supper.

Sea robins are only one of several varieties of non-game fish that are worth taking home and cooking. Our interest in the so-called "trash-fish" of Long Island began several years ago when we realized that marine resources, like other resources of this planet, are finite and that the days of wasting one's catch were over. Also, we are basically experimental in nature and had difficulty in accepting the general opinion that certain varieties of fish could not be eaten. As a consequence, we began taking home all kinds of fish to try out in the kitchen. Only one species lived up to its reputation of inedibility—the hacklehead is truly horrible table fare. On the other hand, we had some pleasant surprises; not only the sea robin but also the windowpane (or sundial) flounder and the dogfish are delicious eating.

During the spring and summer months large numbers of these three varieties of fish migrate into the inshore waters of Long Island's East End and can comprise a significant portion of an angler's catch. The first fish to appear are the windowpanes (**Scophthalmus aquosus**), which tolerate a wide variety of water temperatures. Beginning in April, they are found along Long Island Sound and in Gardiner's Bay along with the winter flounder. These large-mouthed, aggressive, left-handed flatfish grab almost any small lure or bait with gusto, and neophyte fishermen may mistake them for fluke during the late summer peak of that run. However, the circular form of the windowpane, its very thin cross-section and the gray or brown coloration of its topside distinguish it from the fluke. If any doubt remains, one need only hold it up to the light to see why the windowpane has earned its name: its body is translucent.



This mixed bag of fluke, sea robins, and windowpanes was taken off Mattituck Inlet on strip baits. Windowpanes and sea robins contribute significantly to the summertime by-catch of North Fork anglers.

A large windowpane flounder grabbed a mackerel jig while Marty was fishing off Orient Park this spring.

• Northern and striped sea robins (**Prionotus carolinus** and **Prionotus evolans**) appear at the peak of the weakfish run and remain all summer. In Shinnecock Bay and the Peconics are some of the largest sea robins found anywhere on the East Coast, and old baymen in the area tell stories of sea robins large enough to drag

tiderunners backwards when the two fish attack a hi-lo rig simultaneously. Big sea robins are surprisingly aggressive and will crash a lure moving toward the surface almost as readily as they'll take a still bait; in fact, many a two-pound sea robin has been mistaken for a weakfish on the strike and initial run.

Smooth dogfish (**Mustelus canis**) are the last of the triumvirate to move inshore. August and September are their peak months in the Peconics, and at that time they can be found scavenging among schools of porgies, kingfish, and blowfish. Unlike the windowpane and the sea robin, which are not at all bashful about striking lures, the slender sharks are bottom-feeding bait-eaters.

Preparing these fish for cooking is not at all difficult. The windowpane is the easiest because it can be prepared whole. Simply remove the head and entrails and scissor off the fins close to the body. The mild-flavored skin is quite palatable and should be left on the fish. Dogfish, like all sharks, must be killed, filleted, and skinned immediately after catching so that no traces of dermal excretion taint the flesh. Sea robins are trickier to handle because of spines on the fins and gill plates. An old terrycloth towel may be used to grasp the head of the fish during the filleting operation. Cuts are made through the flesh on either side of the backbone and along both sides of the fish. The resulting two thick fillets can then be skinned easily. We save the skin because it makes excellent strip bait for fluke angling.

The windowpane, first cousin to the prized European turbot, has become our favorite flatfish. Its delicate white flesh, moister than fluke, yet not so soggy as winter flounder, lends itself to simple cooking techniques, such as that in the following recipe:

Windowpane Flounder Meuniere
(courtesy of THE SUFFOLK TIMES]

windowpane flounder (1 or 2 fish per serving]
milk, seasoned flour, vegetable oil
2 tbs. butter per serving, lemon juice, chopped parsley

Dry the whole cleaned fish. Dip in milk and dredge in the seasoned flour, shaking off the excess. Fry the fish in 1/4 inch of hot oil several minutes on each side until the skin is golden and the fish is done inside the crust. Remove the fish and keep warm. Pour off the oil and melt the butter in the pan until it just begins to turn brown. Remove from heat and add lemon juice to taste. Pour the lemon-butter over the fish and sprinkle the fish with the chopped parsley. Serve extra lemon-butter on the side.

* * *

Dogfish, with its fine, non-flaky texture and more assertive flavor, can stand up to sauces. We have considered the following recipe a success.

Dogfish with Vegetables

fillet from 3 lb. dogfish
1 pint water
1 tsp. baking soda
2 tbls. olive oil
juice of one lemon
1 carrot, peeled, cut into rounds, and cooked
1 medium onion, sliced & cooked
1/2 tsp. dill
salt & pepper to taste
2 egg yolks, beaten

Soak the fillets, refrigerated, for several hours in a solution of the baking soda and water. Remove fillets, dry and place in a baking dish greased with 1 tbls. olive oil. Sprinkle fish with dill, salt, and pepper, arrange the carrots and onions over it and then pour on the remaining olive oil and the lemon juice. Bake for about 30 minutes in a 350° F. oven, basting frequently with the liquid that forms in the bottom of the pan. If not enough liquid is present, add a small amount of dry white wine or water. When the fish is done, remove from the oven and set the fish and vegetables aside to remain warm. Strain the liquid (there should be about 1 cup; if not, add more wine or water). Heat the strained liquid in a saucepan and stir a small amount into the beaten egg yolks. Then stir the egg yolk mixture into the strained liquid. Heat, stirring constantly, until the sauce thickens. Pour the sauce over the fillets, arrange the carrots and onions on top, and serve.

* * *

The slightly grayish flesh of the sea robin has a more robust flavor which goes well with hearty sauces.

Sea Robin in Bacon/Wine Sauce
(courtesy of THE SUFFOLK TIMES)

8 sea robin fillet
flour, 1 beaten egg, dry bread crumbs for breading
vegetable oil
4 strips bacon, chopped
1/4 cup chopped onion
3/4 cup dry white wine

Fry bacon until crisp. Remove from skillet and fry onion in the same skillet until soft. Remove onion from the skillet, combine it with the bacon, and set aside. Add 1/4 inch of oil to skillet. Bread the fish fillets by dipping them in the flour, beaten egg, and then the bread crumbs. Heat the oil and fry the breaded fillets until the crust is golden and the flesh is done. Remove the fillets from skillet and set aside to keep warm. Pour the oil from the skillet, then pour in the wine, add the bacon and onions, and cook over high heat until the wine is reduced by one-half. Lower the heat, stir some of the bacon-wine mixture into the beaten egg remaining from the breading process, then add the egg mixture to the skillet. Cook, stirring constantly, until the sauce is slightly thickened. Serve the sauce separately, to be poured over the fish at the table.

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FRECKLES, NOT STRIPES

by Capt. John DeMaio

Weakfish are taking up the slack that the striped bass have left. And a good thing too! Bass are getting so hard to come by that it hardly seems worth the effort to go after one. I am not denying the fact that as the bass fishing diminishes, the prize is heightened. A greater value is now placed on catching one. That's good, I guess. But devoting all your fishing time and energy into the pursuit of bass makes you a member of the elite core. A high ranking officer in the army of fishermen. So why not! We all fish for different reasons at one time or another. Fun, money, glory, adventure, relaxation, excitement and escape. Many approach fishing with fierce dedication. Others so moved, surrender to its song and devote a life to it. Then, too, a great many like myself, are full timers for a number of reasons. Reasons created through social environment and timing. Not by love and desire alone. Above all the reasons remains one common denominator that unites the majority of us fishermen, and that is the action. We want to catch fish! Give us action that makes us breathe hard, and bring sweat to our brows. And so here enters the weakfish.

It is hard to believe that the weaks come back stronger every year. But they're spoiling us rotten. More and bigger. Of course, they don't grow as big as bass, but, when you're interested in action, who cares. They're big enough to pull a drag, tear out a hook or break a line. Let's look at a few more pluses to be thankful for. They are taken on artificial lures which makes them a great sport fish and with only a few teeth they're easy on tackle. Everyone seems to agree that these neon-colored beauties are pleasing to the eye and make a delicious meal to boot. Most important is their tendency to school up and go on a feeding binge providing the angler with some fast and furious fishing.

For those purists in fishing who wish to catch a fish by casting for one, the weakfish is a Godsend. Even though bluefish can satisfy our lust for action, they usually run small in the shallows. Weakfish are more like the bass. Large fish enter the shallows and can be caught there.

Many fishermen cannot find the time to fish days and once more, the nocturnal weakfish comes to the rescue. After a day's work, an angler can try for a few weaks in the setting sun and into the night in some nearby favorite fishing spot and still be home by midnight. Not only does he stand a chance at catching a fish, he just might luck out on a school and get enough fishing in to last a week. (Then, again, some appetites are bigger than others and he may be back the next night looking for more of the same.) Some of us like to fish at night and the weakfish gives us something to fish for. Under the cover of dark can be found privacy. "Secret" spots can be fished without prying eyes. No fun in the sun people roaring by in high powered boats. After dark the waterways belong to the fishermen. Without the weakies, his Dracula pursuits would be a lesson in futility.

Even I like to do a Bela Lugosi act at times and fly by night. My preference is casting and night is best for this. Under the mysterious cloak of dark, the weakies move into the beach shallows. I have had huge schools of weakfish all around the boat for hours on end. A guaranteed fish every cast.

Maybe more than one. As many as four or five weakfish hooked and lost on one cast. You would have to be really lucky to lay into a school of bass like that nowadays. With an 8 lb. fish waiting on every cast—who cares. When the weaks move into an area where stripers tend to swim, there's a chance of adding a bass or two to your catch. One night last July, myself and a friend went out at dusk for a quick shot at the weakfish. We stopped fishing at three in the morning with a total of 56 weaks and two bass in the twenties. Two more bass broke off. We left the fish biting because my friend had to be somewhere early that day. We ended up making short, 30 ft. casts behind the boat and the line would go tight, every cast. Even when it isn't a leap job, catching six or even three is worthwhile. The point I'm trying to make is the possibility of really "diggin' in" exists.

For the surfcaster, weakfish are a shot in the arm. Surfcasters have been taking it on the chin the past several years. They were the first ones to feel the lack of bass. Bluefish, too, have dropped off somewhat and disappeared from the shallows. At times I hear some surfcasters complain of catching "only weakfish." They should light candles for weaks and thank their lucky stars.

At times the weakfish is too easy to catch. This is because they are caught mostly in large schools where the competition is keen. Then again, in those good old days, striped bass were easy to catch also. Yet when the weakie is not running in schools he can be fussy and thereby offer the angler a challenge.

My experience with weakfish has only been in Montauk. Since the weakies have returned I have fished nowhere but Montauk. From what I gather, the weaks are not so easy to catch in Montauk as some of the other areas they enter into in the spring. Montauk doesn't see the weaks until they leave the Sound and have finished spawning. By the time they have arrived, I believe they're a little wiser. Of course, some of the catches made at Montauk this summer were the best yet seen out there, yet it still wasn't all that easy. A simple lure manipulation would make the difference between good and no fishing. Whether diamond jigging or casting. Even trolling patterns needed minor changes. Almost any lure would catch with a few catching better. All the lures that work well on bass will catch weakfish. I will admit to you bass devotees that some of the popular lures used to catch weakfish will not catch a bass. No way. Still, bucktails, tubes, jigs and plugs will always work, as will what the boys in the Bay area are calling the "devil-tail."

My best and hottest fishing came in July this year when the weaks showed up. It was fast fishing. Keeping up with the schools was a matter of hit-and-run. There seemed to be no failures. Everyday I put the boat in gear and went looking over the familiar areas where I might connect. Finding a school of fish feeding would provide fast action. Maybe 20 fish in 15 minutes. Then off again looking and hunting. Moving with the fish daily and playing the tides worked. On some days I actually spent four out of five hours hunting. But that one hour was enough to fill the box or at least make the day. It was wild and it lasted for a month.

Don't kid yourself; the old times of weakfishing were never like this. An old-timer I know well and respect as a great fisherman, a leader in his day, told me the true story. After watching me hit the dock daily with hundreds of pounds of weaks and experiencing some hot fishing firsthand with me on a few casting trips he said, "I never saw so many weaks." Even in the Thirties when they were thickest, the consistency wasn't at all like this.

So fellas, enjoy it. We're living in a good time. Make the most of it. The hell with the stripes, go for the guys with the freckles. At least now we have something to look forward to this coming season and probably for some time to come. With more laws on conservation curtailing commercial activities in the spawning areas, we may have a fishery to depend on for years. Maybe the bass will regroup and return while we're not looking. I don't believe I will ever see those good bass years again in my lifetime. Maybe for the kids, not me. "Frankly, I don't give a damn Scarlett, I have weakfish."

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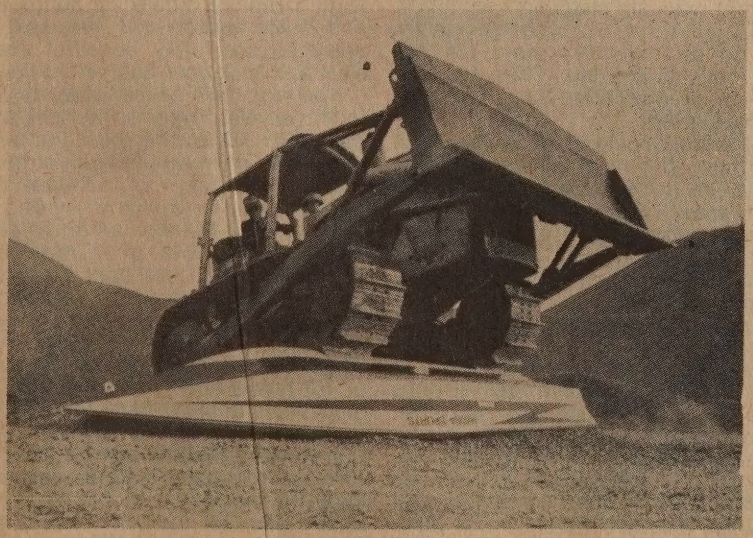

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AREA PROFILE:

REYNOLDS CHANNEL

Part Three — *by David Curti*

What would Long Island fishermen do without the fluke? Every May our waters are invaded by these flat, toothy game fish and they stick around until the end of September.

The first arrivals generally make their presence known around the Duck Point area of the channel. By the beginning of June they are spread out all over the Channel. The area around the Long Beach High School and buoy 9 produces with consistency. The channel by the Long Island Rail Road Bridge and the area around Pearshalls Hassock also can be very hot. In fact, when the winds are too strong in the channel, these two spots may often save the day. Late in the season, the hard sand around the Cedarhurst Yacht Club and the Inlet prove to be the best locations.

I have just highlighted some of the areas within the channel that hold exceptional quantities of fluke at any given time, but over the years I have found Reynolds Channel to be one of the most productive areas on the western end of Long Island. There are days when it doesn't matter where you drift, since the fluke seem to be everywhere. But when they are not, try the locations just described.

Rigging for fluke is a simple matter. For most of the season, the standard three foot leadered hook about three to six inches above the sinker will do the job. However, in the fall, when the fluke are on their way out of the bays, I use a somewhat longer leader. A four foot leader seems to do the job better then.

For a long time, I had been aware of the effectiveness of the dropper in the surf, and one of my first experiments with fluke was to tie a bucktail hook about two to four feet above the sinker. The rig has produced many a bonus over the years. Weakfish, blues and even bass have joined many a fluke on my dinner table.

In the last few years, a lot of fishermen have given up the Carlisle hooks in favor of the short shank hooks. My uncle always used a 2/0 Eagle claw baitsaver hook when fishing the Channel and, being his best student; I follow suit.

Bank sinkers up to three ounces will fit the bill weight-wise. I prefer to use a sliding egg sinker, since it enables me to detect the gentle pickup and hold that is characteristic of baitfishing for fluke. This is especially useful when fishing whole snappers in the fall.

A variety of baits will work well for fluke. Along with the old standbys such as squid, sand eels and killies, there are a number of equally effective and in some instances, superior baits. Tony's favorite was fluke belly, followed closely by dogfish. I also often kept in mind that a small soft shell calico crab once caught me a six pounder.

Snappers have proved themselves to be an excellent bait for the doormats in the fall. They are best fished in the inlet, and not the channel itself.

The most popular but perhaps not the most effective methods for taking fluke are drifting and trolling. I can still hear Tony complaining about "the up and down" and the "put, put." I am not going to go into the particulars on these types of fishing, since the weekly articles in the LIF cover these methods in more than enough detail.

Instead, I want to talk about a method that, in these times of the gas shortage, could prove invaluable. Don't store that chum pot that came in so handy for flounder. Most of the bait shops in the area sell frozen moss bunker chum in quart containers. Get yourself a couple of quarts and place one—still frozen—in the chum pot. Anchor up in a likely location and wait. Fluke hone in on a chum slick just as blues do and your catch, often in a matter of a couple of hours, can exceed that of an entire day of drifting.

Almost any spot in the channel can produce for you. but I have found three locations that are noteworthy. One spot is the dropoff to the main channel across from the Long Beach High School, on the marsh side. The channel leading into Duck Point by buoy 7 is also very good. However, my favorite spot is on the marsh side of the hole, between buoys 3 and 5. With a running tide a rip builds up, and if you anchor in it, you can lay down an absolutely beautiful chum slick and walk your bait very nicely.

You may have noticed that, earlier in this article, I referred to fluke as a game fish. When they hear the word game fish, most people think of bass, blues or weakfish, but fluke are also included in that category. Have you ever caught a fluke on an artificial? I have, and do with more regularity than I do with just bait. Reynolds Channel is one of my proving grounds for lures.

Bucktails are at the top of the list of lures that I use for fluke. Smilin bills, bullet heads and Uppermann styles all work, with the bullet head holding a slight edge. Let me say right out that I always sweeten artificials with a piece of strip bait. I suggest that you keep the weight under 5/8 ounce. I have found that the 1/2 ounce is the most consistent fish catcher.

If there is one fish which has taught me the value of lure color, it is the fluke. When I first started to fish for fluke with bucktails, I used white and only white. Then, one day, it was cloudy with intermittent cold rain. (You know, one of those days when only fishermen are nuts enough to be

out in the first place.) Well, Tony was taking fish on his fluke belly bait; but my fish were few and far between. Could my bucktail fail me? I remembered reading something about yellow lures on cloudy days. I went to the tackle box and got a yellow bucktail and sweetened it with a piece of fresh squid. I had my first fluke, a keeper too, almost as soon as the lure hit bottom.

Tins such as the Hopkins Shorty and Kastmasters will also take fluke. For some reason, they can also be a little heavier than the bucktail. Weights can be up to one ounce, with the 3/4 ounce having the edge. Don't forget to sweeten it with a piece of strip bait and jig it a little while drifting.

In recent years, the plastic baits that have proved so effective for weakfish have also proved themselves with fluke. Pink and white are the best colors for sunny days, while amber and yellow work best on cloudy ones. Salty Dogs, Touts, Mister Twisters and Tri-Fin Whiptails have all caught fish for me.

The tides can really run strong at times in Reynolds Channel. This is especially true during the full and new moons, when it is impossible to fish bottom with the lightweight lures. I have found the solution in the form of drails. I attach a two or three ounce drail to the end of my line and clip on a smaller version of one of the artificials I mentioned earlier on a three to four foot leader. I generally keep the weights at 1/4 ounce or smaller. One of my favorite lures for this type of fishing is a plain bucktail hook or streamer fly.

There are two things to remember when fishing artificials for fluke; use bright colors on clear days and dark colors on overcast days, and always sweeten the lure with a piece of strip bait.

I have taken larger fish on artificials and have found that they hit the lure harder with fewer short strikes. In my opinion, this virtually eliminates the need for the "dropback" that is so common to fluke fishing.

Tides are an important part of fishing regardless of the location and the Channel is no exception. Tony's comment has always held true: "The water has got to be moving." Slack water generally sounded the lunch bell aboard the Cappy's Special. Tony generally preferred an outgoing tide, except when we were fishing the area around the Long Beach High School. That was our incoming spot.

Perhaps one of the most important variables for Reynolds Channel fishing is the winds. Southerly winds are the best providing they are under fifteen miles an hour. I feel that southwesterlies hold a slight edge over the southeasterlies, while east and west winds produce about the same. The real killers are the northerly winds, since they can cause the fishing to drop dead.

Well, this ends another week. Next week I will talk about striped bass.

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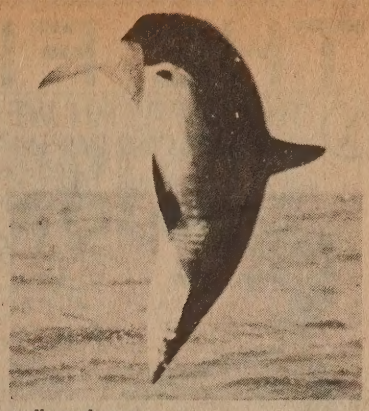

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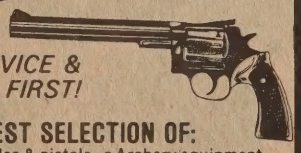

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THE AMERICAN WESTERN FICTION WRITER WHO HELPED POPULARIZE DEEP SEA FISHING THROUGH HIS STIRRING PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF THE SPORT WAS
JOE BROOKS ☐ ZANE GREY ☐
ERNEST HEMINGWAY ☐
MATT AHERN ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

(2) THIS HARD FIGHTING FISH OF THE NORTHEAST COAST IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SPECTACULAR LEAPS AND IS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY SALTWATER ANGLERS.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) WHICH OF THESE WELL KNOWN SHELL FISH IS COMMONLY USED TO MAKE PEARL BUTTONS?
A-OYSTER ☐
B-SCALLOP ☐
C-MUSSEL ☐

A

B

C

(4) WHAT DOES THE PHRASE *"LIGHTING UP"* REFER TO IN BIG GAME FISHING?

(5) BASKING SHARKS GROW TO 30 FT. AND 8600 LBS. AND ARE THE BIGGEST SHARKS
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(6) THE SKIPPER OF OUR FLORIDA CHARTER BOAT TOLD ME THAT MY 45 LB. GROUPER WAS TOO BIG FOR GOOD EATING AND WOULD BE TOUGH. SINCE...

...THEN I'VE HEARD DIFFERENTLY. WHO'S RIGHT, A READER ASKS?

1-ZANE GREY. 2-FALSE. IT'S A BUTTERFISH. 3-MUSSEL. 4-WHEN A MARLIN IS HOOKED AND GETS MAD, HIS VERTICAL FLOURESCENT STRIPES GLOW BRIGHTLY. 5-FALSE. WHALE SHARKS ARE THE LARGEST. THE BASKING SHARK IS NO. 2 IN SIZE. 6-YOUR BOAT CAPTAIN'S OPINION WAS NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT HE COULD GET A GOOD PRICE FOR YOUR GROUPER BACK AT THE DOCK IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP IT. THE MEAT FROM A BIG GROUPER IS DELICIOUS. SORRY!

FISHERMAN'S TABLE:

FRESH OFF THE BARBEQUE

by Bob & Anna Roberts

There are some valid reasons why outdoor barbecue cooking makes sense, particularly in the warm summer months.

In the forefront, of course, is reduction of the load on fans or air conditioner by moving much of the kitchen range heat output outdoors. Cooking odors are also relegated to the summer breezes, if any. And today we have a popular and patriotic excuse for barbecue cooking in terms of energy conservation.

To these mundane justifications, we'll add a couple that influence us even more. First, barbecuing is part of the joy of summer. Second, we enjoy the taste which charcoal smoke and hickory chips can impart to many foods. One that we think gains character and tang from this outdoor cooking is fish.

Fish on a barbecue grill presents a problem due to its texture. Leaving the skin on fillets holds them together, of course, while they're being broiled skin side down. Then you have to turn them over. Depending on the species, the segmented layers of flesh may have separated as they absorbed heat and a fair share of the meat will flake off and fall through onto the coals.

There are solutions to the problem. Most common is the use of foil. Use a fairly heavy gauge aluminum foil and lay a sheet over the grill. With a knife, or scissors, cut holes or slots between bars of the grill, sufficient to let heat and smoke through to the fish.

You'll have less trouble turning the fish on this foil if you give the upper side of the sheet a thorough spraying with a non-stick product such as Pam before the fish is placed on it. We like to start in with the skin side down, but with foil it doesn't make too much difference. The trick is to make enough openings in the foil to permit the fish to cook at a reasonable speed, but not so many that you again wind up with fish falling into the fire. Because those segments of the fillet directly above each hole cook fastest, it's desirable to shift each fillet frequently as each side is exposed to the heat.

In the last few years, we've moved to another piece of equipment: a broiling rack. This is just a modern version of the old wire toaster you may have used on camping trips to toast bread over a campfire. The two grilled surfaces are offset rather than being flat against each other and the one we have is square and large enough to hold four good sized fillets, be they thick or thin.

Getting ready to barbecue with foil—two big weakfish fillets are on the cutting board. They'll be marinated in the soy sauce and seasoned with the lemon-pepper and ginger before the charcoal is lit. Note sizable slits in the foil; suitable for coarse fleshed fish like weakies or stripers but too large for flounder or blues.

It may take a little shopping to find this sort of toaster/rack. Ours was in the housewares department of a good sized Florida department store, but you might have more luck at a camping supply outlet. It's a good idea to know the diameter of your barbecue, so the rack will fit inside comfortably.

Here again, we recommend the non-stick spray on the rack before each use. It makes it much easier to remove the fish. Also, we like to set the barbecue with dampers open halfway or less and to use the cover over the barbecue from the time the fish are first put on the grill. This inhibits the flame-up of the charcoal and prevents build-up of a black crust on the fillet. It also holds in the heat so the fish will cook to some extent simultaneously on both sides. You'll still have to turn the fillets halfway through the cooking period in order to get a uniform doneness.

Preparing the fillets for cooking is largely a matter of your personal taste. It depends, too, on the species of fish. A sauce or seasoning you'd use on stripers might be entirely too overpowering to supplement the subtle flavor of flounder, for instance.

A few days ago we hauled the final fillets from last summer's bluefish out of the freezer. After a partial thawing period, they were placed, skin up, in a Pyrex dish with a quarter-inch depth of Italian salad dressing and left to marinate for around an hour.

Then we turned them over in the marinade and let them soak up more of it on the skin side while some seasoning was applied. Blues have a tendency to oiliness so we doused them with lemon juice. Then we sprinkled the flesh side liberally with coarse ground pepper out of a pepper mill, garlic salt and dill seed.

It had been a big blue and the fillets were about an inch thick. We had a good hot bed of coals and barbecued them 12 minutes to the side. With some fresh asparagus anointed with melted butter it was delicious, dietetic—a great fish dinner!

FLUKE FISHING— Alternative Technique

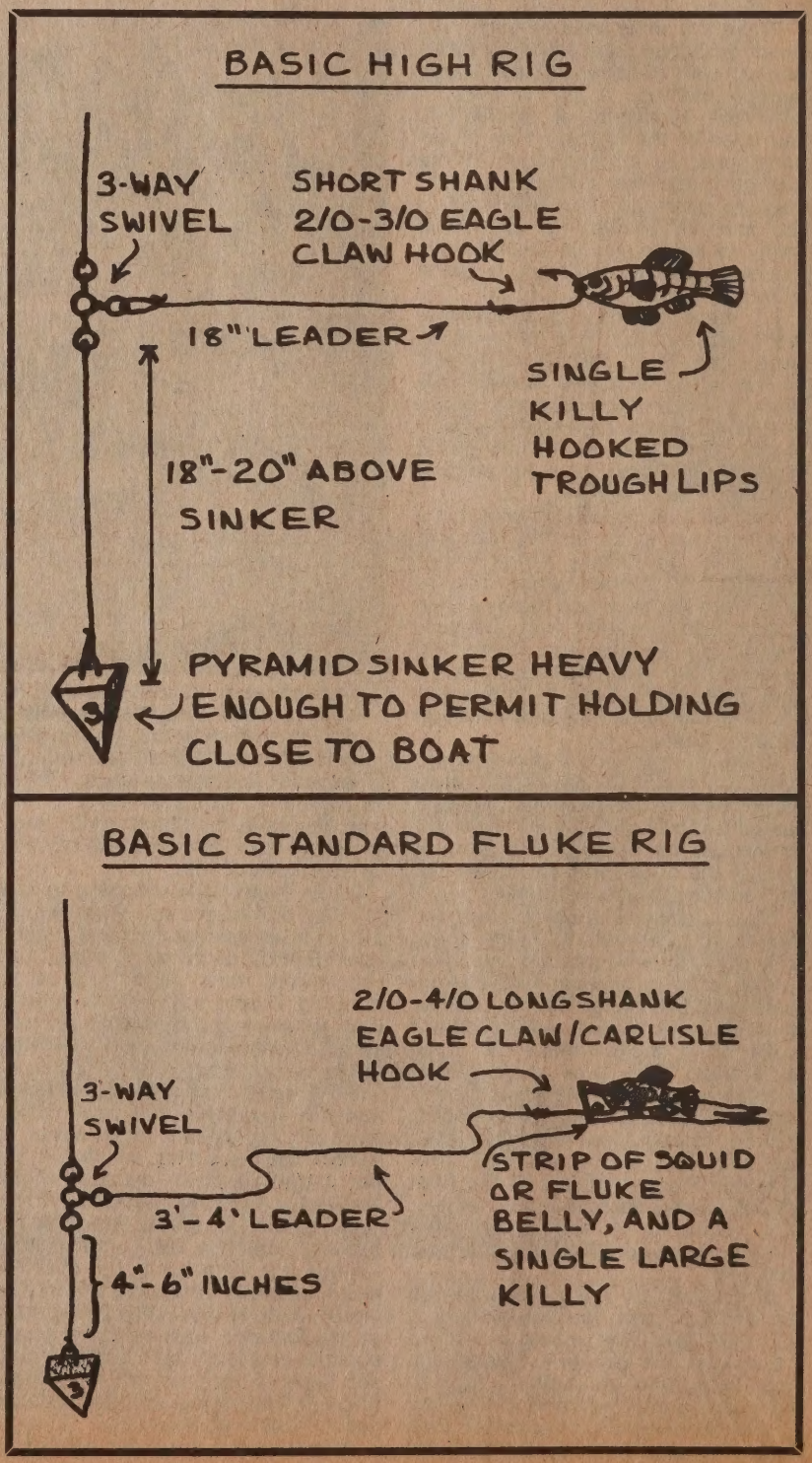
by John V. Konior

Techniques for catching fluke vary but the primary methods are drifting and trolling. While undoubtedly these methods prove successful there is another method which often is superior. This alternative is chumming with ground bunker.

Before getting into the techniques involved with chumming, I'd like to discuss several drawbacks to the drift/troll methods, particularly in view of the gas shortage and the amount of boat traffic one now encounters these days, especially on weekends.

Drift fishing for fluke is a simple enough method. One starts at a likely location, and depending upon wind and current conditions, drifts until such time that the desired area is covered or is forced to terminate the drift; i.e., moving into water that is too shallow for the boat, etc.

The problems associated with drift fishing (if I may call them so) depend upon several circumstances. First, you're competing with many other fishermen in the same area and are covering the same ground. This is particularly true in such fluke haunts as inlets where virtually every size boat imaginable, including party boats, is vying for the same fish. Aside from the competition involved, such heavy traffic often leads to disturbing turbulence making fishing uncomfortable at best. I'm sure you have had the experience. Second are the elements. These problems are intensified when fishing in relatively restricted areas such as channels. Wind and current strengths have a significant bearing on your success. For example, a strong cross wind limits your ability to drift, moving your boat from one side of a channel to the other in a relatively short time span requiring constant moving. Even with the fortune of having the wind in the direction of the area you are fishing, wind velocity will still impact your chances. A wind against current could virtually slow down your drift to a standstill or allow a very slow drift. This condition is not generally good. Many fishermen often resort to slow trolling when this situation is encountered. However, unless your engine is tuned to slow trolling this may not be possible. On the other hand, a strong wind in the direction of the current may cause your boat to drift too quickly. This condition may prevent the fish from hitting, or at best only allow poorly hooked fish. Further-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SHORT SHANK 2/0-3/0 EAGLE CLAW HOOK
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18"-20" ABOVE SINKER
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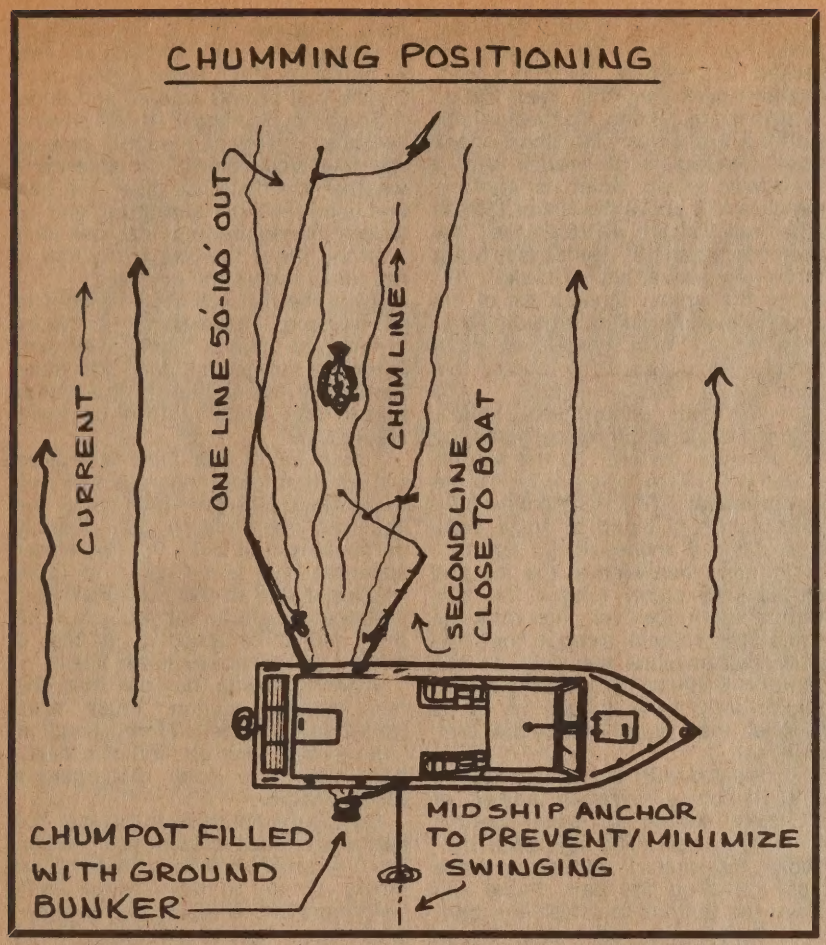
2/0-4/0 LONGSHANK EAGLE CLAW/CARLISLE HOOK
3-WAY SWIVEL
STRIP OF SQUID OR FLUKE BELLY, AND A SINGLE LARGE KILLY
3'-4' LEADER
4"-6" INCHES



more, you may end up drifting too rapidly over a desired piece of ground requiring constant repositioning.

The point that I'm making is that the days where conditions are ideal for drifting are somewhat rare. If you want to enhance your ability to salvage those days where conditions are not right you must have another fishing alternative. This alternative is chumming while anchored.

Chumming is unfortunately not without its disadvantages. First off, you must select a location where there is some concentration of fish. All the chum in the world will not attract fish to your boat if none are around. Second, chum will also attract undesirable creatures such as crabs. Third, when anchored you will most definitely pick up a great deal of seaweed. Fourth, depending upon the location, your boat will be tossed about by turbulence from passing boats. And finally, bunker chum is relatively scarce and expensive.

"If chumming has so many disadvantages," you might say, "what's so special about it?" First, remember that I stated that it's an alternative. This is not to say it should be treated as such because I, among a number of other fishermen, use it as the prime method for fluke fishing, particularly when the summer doldrums set in. Despite the noted disadvantages I have found that I tend to catch more and bigger fish compared to results when drifting/trolling.

To employ the chumming method successfully, location should be a prime consideration. Fluke are generally found at the edges of channels in relatively shallow water (2' to 6'), primarily over sand bottoms. They also are found at the edge of flats and over bottoms where the contour is such that there are a number of hills or valleys. Fluke will lie in wait in a hole waiting for unsuspecting bait fish to be washed in with the current. As the season wears on fluke tend to scatter among back bay creeks and channels eventually returning to the inlets in the late summer.

Although inlets are generally best during the early/late seasons I avoid them if possible like a plague because of the heavy boat traffic. I tend to select a back bay creek or channel which is relatively shallow, which proves to be a deterrent for larger boats and speeding. I select a spot in 4' to 8' of water, allowing for tide variation, on the edge of the creek/channel, and set either amidship or stern anchor to minimize swinging. Because I am moored out of Seaford Harbor my favorite locations tend to concentrate in adjoining areas such as Four Corners, the Black Banks east of the southernmost Wantagh Bridge, Haunt's and Broad Creek, Nick's Point in East Bay, in

(Continued on next page.)

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Merrick Bay itself, and Massapequa Cove. As a rule these areas are lightly trafficked, or speed limits are imposed (the exception being Four Corners just south of Seaford) making fishing comfortable as well as productive.

As for technique, I employ two methods concurrently. First, I purchase a three gallon can of ground bunker preferably frozen. I dig out a 1/4 lb. chunk and place it in a large chum pot. Because it is frozen it tends to dissipate more slowly. Otherwise, I place the chunk in a mesh bag and then into the pot. I lower the pot at a point up-current so that it gets to the bottom almost directly below my boat. This is important because fluke seeking the source will swim close to the boat and it also prevents your rig from becoming entangled with the chum pot or line.

With another 1/4 lb. chunk I mix it with a gallon or two of sea water. I spoon the resulting gruel over the side every couple of minutes or so.

I rebait the chum pot every half hour or so depending upon current strength, dumping the drained bunker overboard.

The one thing you must exercise is patience. While I have caught fluke almost immediately, the rule is that you may have to wait an hour or so before the fish scent the chum flow and swim up to your boat. Don't make the mistake of moving if after a couple of minutes you don't catch anything. However, if after an hour you don't catch anything, move on to another likely location. Tides may make a difference. I've often found that few fish are caught on a given tide, but after waiting for it to change the results have been good. As a result I try to time my fishing whenever possible to anchor in a location where the tide will be changing in an hour or two.

When rigging for a session of fluke chumming, I prefer using two rods: one a 6½' boat rod, a Penn Squidder loaded with 30 lb. test mono; the second a medium 6½' spin rod, medium saltwater spin reel loaded with 15 lb. test mono. To the spin rod I affix a 3/0 Eagle Claw short shank hook having a 3' leader via a three-way swivel which is approximately a foot above the sinker. To the other rod I attach a 3/0 Eagle Claw hook having an 18" leader also via a threw-way swivel approximately 18" above the sinker. Sinkers are of the pyramid type to facilitate holding and weights will vary depending upon current strength (more about this later on).

In the bait department, killies, strips of squid and fluke belly are the top attention getters. To the shorter leader (18") I only use a killy. To the longer leader (36") I combine a killy with a strip of squid or fluke belly which is 5-6 inches long, approximately one inch wide at the top and tapers to a point. I hook the killy through both lips first, then hook the squid strip on once through the wide part. I often slice the strip up the center to enhance its fluttering effect. Fluke belly lasts longer as it is tougher than squid and more crab resistant.

To the rod with the short leader I will tie on a pyramid sinker of sufficient weight to reach bottom close to the boat. The high hook (18" above the sinker) minimizes crabs from grabbing the bait. Fluke will leave the bottom to attack the bait. With the spinning rod, I allow the rig to settle 50-100 ft. down current. Using this technique, I cover both long and short range fishing grounds in the immediate area, and in my experience this has worked well. I generally fish with the rod which is up close to the boat, keeping an eye on the other rod which is left in a rod holder. When I detect a hit I employ the dropback method. Occasionally the chum will spur on the fluke to hit hard. However, this is felt (actually it's more like a pull). As soon as I feel or notice the hit I immediately open up the bail or anti-reverse and allow the line to free-spool. After several seconds I re-engage the spool, pick up the line slack slowly to determine whether the fluke has taken the bait and upon feeling a strong tug and/or weight immediately set the hook with a strong lift of the rod. If the fish is not felt, I repeat the process.

Once the fish has been brought to the surface, I always net it. Never attempt to haul a fluke overboard without a net because they will more than often fall off due to the rather paper thin construction of their mouths.

I have found that fluke will often put up their most vigorous fight on the surface just when you think the fish has been played out. This is particularly true when the fish either spots the boat or the net. It is quite important due to this fact that your reel drag should be set properly. The drag should be adjusted so that a sharp pull will not snap the line.

When removing the hook from the fish exercise caution. Fluke have rather sharp teeth and will snap at you. A large fish can inflict a nasty bite. Use of a hook disgorger is recommended.

During the hot days of summer it's also a good idea to store your fish on ice. I accomplish this by freezing up blocks of ice in half gallon milk containers and encasing the containers in water-tight plastic bags. Three or four containers will do the job. I then place the containers in a large cooler to which I add fresh sea water. The fluke tend to remain fresh throughout the day and do not get as slimy as with other methods.

As with any fishing technique, chumming will not always provide great results, but on the average will produce some nice catches. Give it a try when all else fails.

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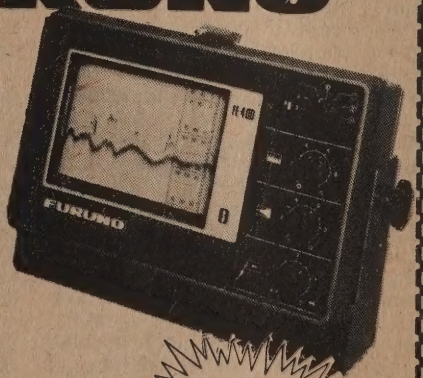

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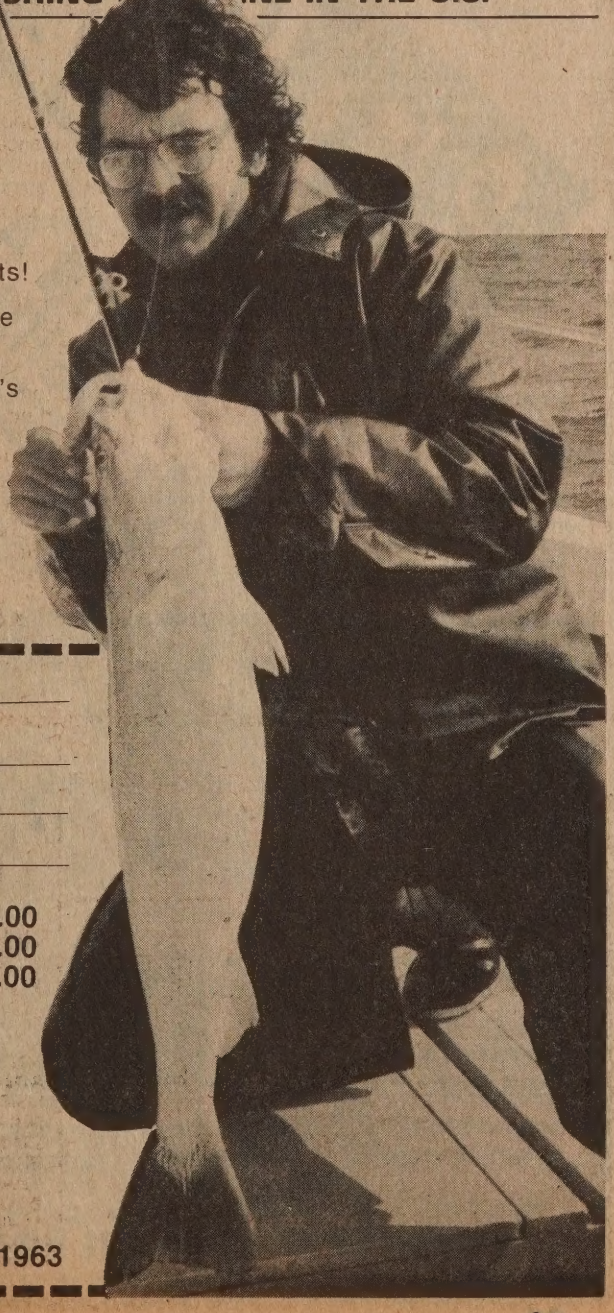

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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

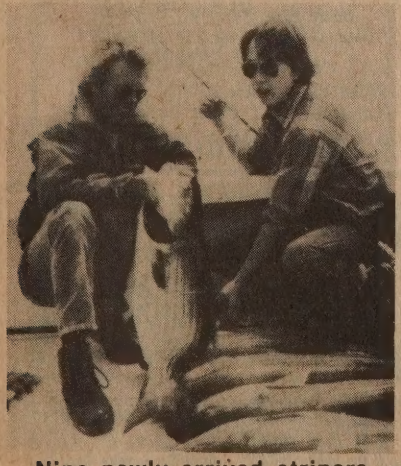
Charter boat **Windy** reports that his charters have been getting night bass from 20 to 40 lbs. trolling plugs on an ebbing tide at Great Eastern, up to 5 fish per tide.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** tells of bluefish to 12 lbs. being taken SE of Block Island as evidenced by 30 choppers taken by Rich Burkland on umbrellas Sunday. Porgies up to 3 lbs. have been a very good item at Pocketbook. Flounder and blackfish at Shagwong and the Hanger Dock at Ft. Pond Bay on worm and clam. Jim and Larry Napolian of Eastport bagged 100 flounders up to 3 lbs. at Tobaccolot on worm and clam.

The **Viking Fleet** reports cod picked up Sunday at Coxes Ledge, fish running 10 to 18 lbs. plus a few hangers, all on bait. Solid porgy catches were made on the weekend porgy trips that the fleet is running. The weekday flounder trips are also scoring nicely fishing local grounds, fish averaging 1 lb. to 1½ lbs.

Charter boat **Adios** reports that the bass fishing was slow this week. Dr. Merritt and son George had 4 bass up to 34 lbs. taken at Great Eastern. On Sunday the skipper heard via the VHF that there were a lot of bass around but not feeding as yet. On Friday's charter, fares had 54 bluefish working off Block Island with umbrellas. Sunday's trip for Mr. Fairentalo at 40 Fathoms, caught 6 blue shark from 100 to 200 lbs.

Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club** tells us that boats sailing from his



Nine newly arrived stripers from 20 to 30 lbs. taken on Memorial Day aboard the charter boat "Adios" at Montauk.

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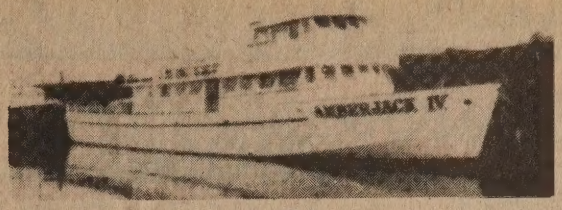

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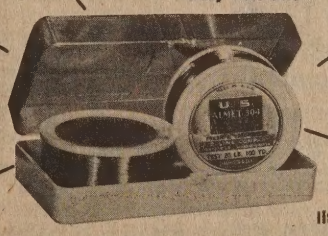

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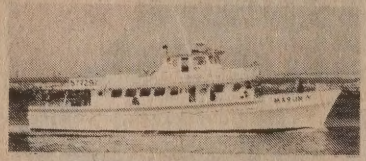

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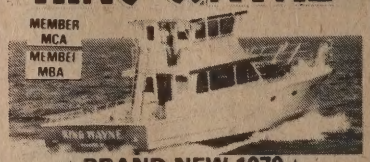

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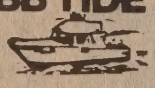

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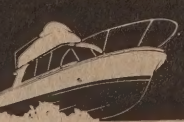

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Joe and John Griffin with 11 bass taken trolling and jigging on the charter boat "Vivienne." Ava jigs and Sekora tubes did the damage.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Capt Tom McMahon of the charter boat **Hook Em Up** called to say that he had a party sharking Sunday and fishing SE of Shinnecock Inlet in 140' of water, had 9 blue shark and 1 brown shark. The highlight of the day was a 350 lb. (est.) mako that jumped 3 times during the course of the fight and broke off at the boat, a real heart breaker.

The **Capt Clark II** tells of excellent porgy fishing in Peconic Bay, fish ranging from ¾ to 2 lbs. on sand worms and clams. Friday saw Manhattan angler Erroll Wilford with 55 porgies. His friend Frank Doucette of the Bronx was hi hook with 76 good sized porgies. The boat is now sailing every Sunday with Capt Clark Bellows Jr. at the wheel. This past Sunday he landed 9 big weakfish for 14 fares and also loaded up on porgies.

docks have been getting blue shark and that the porgy fishing has begun with decent results. Some fluke being caught at Shagwong on sand eels and big stripped baits. The bluefishing remains good with roughly 40 bluefish being trolled per boat Sunday. Sharking has started but boats must travel far to get to them.

Capt Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Kellyboat** called to say that his fares are catching 40 to 50 bluefish per trip in the 8 lb. range SE of Block. Gene says lots of blue sharks offshore. He'll be sailing his first offshore trip next week and he says that he has an opening for next weekend available.

The **Marlin Fleet** tells of good porgy fishing, catches averaging 10 to 25 porgies a man with lots of 2 pounders. A few sea bass, blacks and flounders are mixed in for a good mixed bag. The Marlin is working Pocketbook and Shagwong and Capt Richie Rade says the porgies are shaping up very well and it looks to be a strong porgy season coming.

MORICHES BAY

Paul at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported a catch of 60 flounder made by a party headed by Mr. Pautz on Sunday. They used worms and mussel chum. John Krop Sr. and Jr. and son Darren fished the Elbow with sand eel and squid combos and took 17 keeper fluke along with one weakfish. Best fluking has been south of 36 and on the flats near buoy 44.

Al at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** reported good flounder fishing on Sunday. One customer known only as Ed returned by 10AM with 40 flatties. Fluking was very good Thursday and Friday, although Saturday's fishing

Joe Reichert weighed this 20 lb. 10 oz. striper at Speck's Bait and Tackle. He took it on a Kastmaster at Shinnecock.

slowed somewhat. The morning's incoming tide produced the best scores in the buoy 43 area. Al reported that the keeper ratio is now better than half with all the usual fluke baits producing. Biggest flatties over the weekend was a 5 lber.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** spoke of flounder still being taken at buoy 39 and in the old cut. Leo Hoffa and three friends took 57 flounder in the latter location on Sunday with bloodworms. Fluke are being taken at buoy 38 an although many are shorts enough of the fish are keepers to make for a good catch.

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** reported a great day on Saturday with lots of fluke taken including a 12 lber. which fell for a killy in front of Corr's Dock. Flounder are still plentiful in the basket area, by the Coast Guard station and at the inlet. Stripers are showing at the inlet and by the bridge. Sunday was a washout.

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Gene and Ken Krisser and Hank and Richard with a load of flounder taken near buoys 41 and 42 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Hi-Way Fishing Station.

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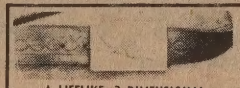

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GREAT SOUTH BAY

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FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishing Station** called the fluking very good from buoys 17-23. Despite lots of shorts, some boats have still managed to take from 20 to 50 keepers. Squid, sand eel and killie combos are all working. For casters, lots of small blues in the hole behind buoy 17, while bass and weaks have been spotty at the big bridge. Blowfish at buoy 19 on squid or worms and still some flounder from buoys 27 to 29. Gary noted too that there has been a decent showing of blue claw crabs over the past week.

SAYVILLE

Reporting from **Formatos Fishing Station,** Fred labelled Sunday a washout. In general, he called the fluking okay despite lots of shorts mixed in. Weakfish from 3-6 lbs. scattered from the flats to Ocean Beach, with jelly worms and sand worms still taking most of the fish. Blues from 2-4 lbs. are mixed with the weaks.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fshing Station** reported weakfish scattered around the area, but the fluking has taken up the slack left by the weaks. Boats

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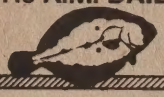

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have been returning with 7-12 keepers apiece from the Ocean Beach area. Porgies, eels and blowfish are mixed with the fluke. Blue claw crabs beginning to make an appearance.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** spoke of lots of fluke, although many are shorts being taken from the Robert Moses Bridge to West Island. Still some weaks and blues being trolled near the lighthouse on umbrella rigs. On the freshwater scene, Dave Ingram checked in a brown trout of 4 lbs. taken out of Sayville's Mill Pond on Sunday. On Saturday Wayne Mahy took a 2¼ lb. pickerel out of Patchogue's Upper Mill Pond. His partner Brian Eames scored with a 2 lber.

AMITY HARBOR

Charter boat **Super BEE II** ran southeast of FI inlet to 130' of water. There was lots of action with blue sharks in the 80 to 90 lb. class, along with a fish box full of big blues.

EAST ISLIP

From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle,** Irene reported a catch of 18 blues from 3-6 lbs. made on Saturday by George and John Kavanaugh . The pair took the fish casting in Dickerson Channel. Of the local fluking, the size of the fish has showed noticeable improvement with less fish having to be returned to the water. Best action has been in the State Channel, West Channel and near the Robt. Moses bridge on sand eels, killies and squid.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Casey Lee** reported a big improvement in the ratios of keepers to shorts with lots of 2-3 lb. fluke now being taken by fares. When good drifting conditions prevail, catches of 100 to 150 keepers are about average. Most of last week was excellent as was Saturday with sand eels, spearing and squid all producing. Best tide has been last of the flood and first of the ebb has been producing the best fishing according to the skipper.

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** looked over a mess of fluke taken in West Channel on sand eels Saturday by John Peters, Bill Hennan and Jim Hines aboard Mary's Song. For best fluke results, Carl suggested the State Channel during the last part of incoming water. He called the weak-fishing slow but the few fish still being taken in West Channel are big. Weaks in the 3-6 lb. class along with 2-4 lb. blues on the flats where they are being taken on jelly worms, Rebels and sand worms. A few bass being livelined in the inlet and lots of school bass being clam chummed at the Robert Moses Bridge.

Vincent Canizio displays the 5 lb. 14 oz. fluke he landed recently aboard the Bay Shore Open boat, "Casey Lee."

CAPTREE

The open boat **Captain Leitch** reported lots of fluke being taken in the State Channel and in the inlet area with about half of the fish now keepers. Some days, fares average 8-10 keepers per man. A few larger fish have begun showing up in the catches as well.

The charter boat **Yankee III** reported that flounder along with some blowfish are still in the pocket at the Sore Thumb and off of Kismet. This past week he mixed in a couple of hours of flounder with fluke charters and managed 45-60 flatties each trip. Fluking has been good with lots of action being provided by numerous

shorts along with keepers. Saturday's charter totalled over 250 fluke, with fishing being done in the State Channel near the Babylon Cut.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty** reported he has switched to fluke and he will be sailing daily for the flatfish from 6AM to 2PM. Fares have been averaging 5-7 keepers apiece. Although Saturday's catch was down with 2-4 keepers a man about average. Fishing is being done from the bridge to West Channel and the pool fish each day is usually in the 4-5 lb. range.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** said that fluke catches ranged from 100 to 200 a day with about 50% of the fish keepers. The State Channel, Snake Hill Channel and the inlet all have their share of fluke with sand eels and squid combos being fished on the last of incoming and first of outgoing producing the best action.

Another of the Captree charter boats, the **Rendova Island** reported a catch of 80 keeper fluke for a party from Con Edison on Saturday. Fishing was done in the State Channel with a couple of fish in the 5 lb. range taken by those onboard. Lots of action with shorts as well. Flounder fishing at the Sore Thumb died over the weekend.

The open boat **Captree Queen II** reported fluke have been providing lots of action although many of the fish must be returned. The State Channel has been providing the most consistent action but the most shorts as well. The R.M. Bridge, Sexton Island and east and west channels seem to have a better keeper ratio. Weaks have tapered off with catches of 6-12 a trip the rule. In addition some blues are mixed with the weaks.

Captain Ron Murray of the charter boat **SeaBird** reported that on Sunday a party headed by Ray Booth took 160 fluke fishing in the State Channel. The fish bit well on both tides, with killies, sand eels and squid all effective baits. Pool fish for the day was a 4½ lber.

The open boat **Captain Joseph II** reported an improvement in the ratio of keepers to throw backs. Most fares averaged 3-5 keepers apiece, with good action in the State Channel as

The first wreck trip of the year for the Captree charterboat "Sea Ranger" produced over 200 blackfish and sea bass from 2 to 4 lbs.

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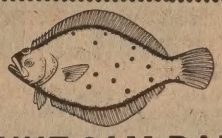

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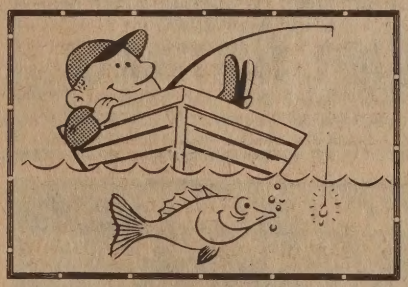

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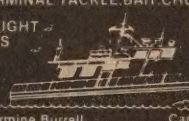

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well as back inside the bay. Squid and killies have been a favorite.

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reported very good fluking Friday through Sunday with the size of the fish noticeably improved. The flatfish has spread all over the bay, with good catches made in the State Channel and West Channel. Killie or sand eel and fluke belly combos have been accounting for most of the action. The skipper labelled the weakfishing as picky, but said enough blues are mixed with the weaks to keep everyone on their toes. Best of this action has been from West Channel to the lighthouse.

The open boat **Capt. Whitaker** reported a very good weekend with the fluke. They have shown an improvement both in size and quantity according to the skipper. On Saturday's morning trip 200 keepers to 5 lbs. were taken with sand eels doing most of the damage.Fishing was being done from the state channel to the inlet. Customers should note that the boat will be sailing its two trip a day schedule 7 days a week for the duration of the summer.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Bob Joseph** reported plenty of fluke but lots of shorts from the state channel to the Robert Moses bridge. Some weakfish up to 12 lbs. on the PM trips, with quite a few blues mixed in. The best of this fishing is in West Channel and at the wreck buoy.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** Ralph reported that Saturday was a good day for weakfish trollers near the lighthouse. Some fish were also taken in West Channel by boatmen drifting sand worms. George McCortney aboard his Whistler clicked with a 14.6 lb. tiderunner. Paul Krause used a live bunker to put a 33 lb. striper aboard his Sea Hawk in Fire Island Inlet. Ralph knew that umbrella rig trollers have been taking quite a few school bass anywhere from the inlet back to Kismet. Fluking continues at a good pace with the size of the fish showing considerable improvement. Big blues are offshore in 80' of water for chummers and trollers while smaller fish are being taken inside the inlet. On the offshore scene Ralph checked in a mako of 212 lbs. for Joe Rabino of the Babylon Tuna Club boat Misty Helm. Another club boat, the Angel Jean returned with a 516 lb. dusky taken in 180' of water southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Bob Clancy was on the rod. Bob Schwartz of the Pride and Joy III returned on Saturday with 3 makos. In addition, they caught and released a number of blue sharks. Bob is also a BTC member.

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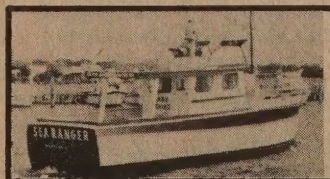

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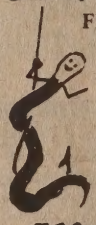

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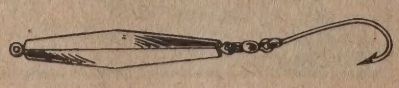

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FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** spoke of a catch of 12 fluke to 5¼ lbs. taken on sand eels and squid combos aboard the My-Way by Robert Mancino, Charlie Maas and Chris Carpenter. They fished the inlet area on Saturday. Also on Saturday, Sal Locascio Sr. and Jr. used spearing to take 15 fluke in the State Channel. Mike knew of a few big bass being clam chummed under the Wantagh bridges along with some school fish. Eels have been keeping the kids busy at the Wellwood Ave. dock.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs told me from **Combs Bait and Tackle** that the offshore scene came alive on Saturday. George knew of a number of makos taken by boatmen. Among them were two of 60 and 90 lbs. taken by Joe Grosetto and his son. They fished 170' of water southeast of Fire Island Inlet in water with a temperature reading of 63°. They used rigged mackerel and squid and had a number of blue sharks as well as a couple of duskies along with the makos. George knew too that lots of blues were chummed by shark fishermen anywhere from 80' to 90' of water on out. He called the fluke fishing at West Island and Squaw Island good with bigger fish beginning to dominate the catches. The keeper ratio has improved considerably in recent days. Best baits have been killie and squid combos or spearing. Bass being clam chummed in the State Channel from the Amityville cut to the 2nd bridge as well as at the Robt. Moses bridge. Some school bass also being trolled on umbrella rigs. Weaks and blues being trolled on umbrella rigs near the FI lighthouse and a few big weaks still being taken on drifted sand worms.

SEAFORD

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco** reported fair fluking over the weekend with fares averaging 4-12 keepers apiece. The size of the fish has improved with only about 30 percent of the fish now under the 14" minimum, according to the skipper. Killie and squid combos fished on outgoing water in Sloop Channel has produced the best action. Brian asked us to remind his customers that he will begin sailing 8AM daily as of Saturday, June 20th.

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle**

reported flounder still around the Meadowbrook Bridge and at the Coast Guard Station for die-hard flatfish fans. Fluke are in solid, although lots of the fish are shorts, with the best action concentrated in Goose Creek and Sloop Channel. Sand eel or killy and squid combos have been taking most of the summer flatfish. Lon reminded that he is now carrying a supply of live killies. Bass are in the bay and in the State Channel on live bait and clam chum. Warren More of Seaford used bunker to take fish of 27 and 30 lbs. at the third bridge on Wednesday. He returned on Thursday to take another pair of fish in the 20 lb. class. Clam chummers are taking mostly school fish with an occasional cow mixed in.

From **captain Eddie's Fishing Station**, Art reported that the ratio of keeper fluke to throwbacks has improved considerably with 3 out of every 5 fish being keepers. On Friday, a Mr. Hempel of Ridgewood fished a little over two hours in Massapequa Cove and returned with 13 keeper fluke taken on killy and squid combos. On Saturday a Mr. Geraci and a friend took 15 keepers in Great Island Channel. The private boat Blue Waters ran 5 miles south of the HA buoy on Sunday and returned with a big blue shark, along with a box full of big blues.

BELLMORE

From **Merrick Tackle**, Scott reported blues in the 5-6 lb. class being trolled on umbrella rigs by boatmen in 50-60 ft. of water south of the inlet. Lots of action with fluke, but many are shorts. Best baits have been sand eels or spearing and skid combos. Scott added that some bass are being chummed in the bay.

Steve Fratangelo used a bunker spoon to troll this 28½ lb. striper near Jones Inlet. He weighed the fish at Skippy's Bait and Tackle.

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MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reported very good fluking at Merrick Point and off of the golf course on Friday and Saturday. Some boats managed as many as 20-30 keepers. Sand eels and killies have both been effective on the flatfish. Nicks Point Tuna Club member George Santry aboard his Lift King tagged and released a bunch of blue sharks on Saturday, but did bring back one fish of 103 lbs. Another club boat, the Oceanic, ran 150° for 35 miles and chummed over 40 big bluefish. Jimmy also relayed word that a few bass were chummed last week near the bridges.

BALDWIN

Mike at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of the bluefish catches being made in 100' of water, fish up to 10 lbs. for those chunking while sharking. Flounders still coming in good from the area of Reynold's Channel at the juncture with Sloop Channel on worms. Some keeper fluke being brought in on killies, squid and sand eels from Reynold's Channel, the Inlet area and Long Creek on both tides.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

FREEPORT

Capt Dan Pollera of the charter boat **Nan-Sea** on Sunday fished 125' of water, 155 degrees for Bob Matson and party. They were rewarded with 20 large bluefish and a 77 lb. blue shark. All of the above hit the decks spitting up squid and were caught on butters and mackerel.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that during the week, the Foreign Commerce Club of NY had it's annual fluke trip which took 6 boats, **Acme II**, Atlantic, **Northstar,** Norsman II, Corsair, and **Capt Joe**. The dock pool went to Harry Smith on the **Capt Joe** with a 4½ lb. fluke. Hi hook honors went to Andy. There were roughly 35 keepers per boat plus plenty of throwbacks. On the weekend all the boats fluked and they caught good and steady with a lot of throwbacks but also a decent number of keepers. Pools ran 3 to 4 lbs. The Barbara Ann on Saturday had big gorilla blues in the 15 lbs. class fishing south of the HA. Sunday saw Big Foot troll blues locally in the 8 lb. range fishing 3 miles south of Cholera. The **Super Spray II** had very good fluking on their two a day schedule. Best catches were on the morning trips with the outgoing tide. The **Super Spray II** June 20th cod wreck trip is filling rapidly with a few openings still remaining. See ad for details.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** reports that Ed Kogel's Congress Factors Group made their 18th consecutive annual

Atlantis Anglers Club members Howie Sternberg and Blanche and Dave Goodman with some of the 6-10 lb. weaks they took at Ocean Beach on sandworms. Photo courtesy of Lou's Fishing Station.

trip aboard the **Acme II** this week. Returning short fluke to the water kept everyone busy and enough keepers remain to make it worthwhile. Another trip during the week for Charlie Tardallos' group had a lot of fluke action in Reynold's with throwbacks constantly going over the side. The **Acme II** has resumed Friday, Saturday and Sunday night after dinner cruises in conjunction with the mid ship restaurant on Guy Lombardo Ave.

The **Aloma II** reports good fluking both outside Jone's Inlet and also in the local creeks and channels, with lots of throwbacks but keepers up to 4 lbs. as well, all on sand eels. The boat is now beginning aside from it's fluke trips night blue trips. See ad for details.

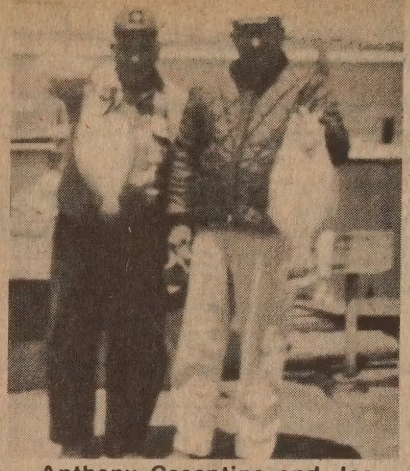
Charter boat **Sandpearl** this past Saturday had 36 blues up to 14 lbs. fishing 150 degrees out of Jone's in 120' of water on mackerel chunks and bunker backs. A 120 lb. class mako was seen taken aboard the private boat in that same area.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that both boats fished Thursday and Friday off Reese Park with spearing and sand eels and enjoyed brisk fishing within 1 mile of the beach. The pool was taken by Frank Sorgie of W. Babylon with a 4 lb. fluke. This was a charter for Price Waterhouse Co. On the weekend both boats fished for fluke locally and encountered lots of midget fish intereference on sand eels, spearing and sundial strips. Enough keepers were culled out to make it interesting however. Saturday's pool fish was a 4½ lb. fluke for Levittown angler Frank Pirolo. Sunday's pool fish was a 2½ lb. fluke for Mike Hogan of Lynbrook. Mike is with the Wonder Bar Fishing Club. The boat still has a few openings for it's July 4th shark trip.

Capt Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** has been getting daily mixed catches of sea bass, ling and blackfish, with different species being caught on different days. Sea bass are going to 3½ lbs., blacks to 6 and ling to 4 lbs. A few blues and a couple of fluke have been mixed in.

The **Capt Gary** had a charter Monday for Steak Loft Rest., Whitestone, and they picked a way a fluke all day, with 40 keepers and plenty of shorts which went back. This was in the Inlet, Swift and Reynold's. Saturday's open boat trip saw 20 percent keeper fluke pulled out of the same area. Sunday's charter for Alexanders, Queens, found it picky on fluke with loads and loads of short fish. John Sheridan of Lefrak City was hi hook with 10 keepers. Mike Creegan of Rosedale took the pool with a 3 lb. fluke. Check ad for the boat's Father's Day special. The boat still has June 28th available.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** tells of very good fluking this week with plenty of shorts and enough keepers to make everyone happy. Early in the week Sam Goldstein of Bayside had 17 keepers including a 5 lb. pool winner



Anthony Cosentino and Joe Poggi with 2 of 18 fluke to 4 lbs. taken in Reynold's Channel. They left from Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

on the all day trip. Average keeper hi hook has been in the high teens everyday on the full day boat with fares averaging 4 to 6 keepers in local waters. The half-day boat has been doing well on fluke with the afternoon trips best, with hi hook averaging 8 to 10 fluke a day. Fares are averaging 3 keeper each. Sand eels, killies and spearing are doing the trick.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's charter for Knucklehead's Pub softball team (NJ), had an excellent fluke trip fishing the ebb in Reynold's Saturday. The bottom seemed paved with fluke on spearing and sand eels. Roughly 15 percent were keepers on outgoing in the morning and 65 percent were keepers on the afternoon flood. There were over 300 fish caught for the day in total, from the bridge to the Golf Course. Sunday's trip for Frank LaMonte and the Center Fishing Club had the same kind of fluking just described. The pool was split between 12 yr. old Owen Hines and 11 yr. old Sean O'Toole, both with fish in the 5 lb. class. A few openings remain for the June 21st open shark trip with the 8 man limit.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** tells us that Tuesday saw 35 keeper fluke out of a total of 60 fish for Warren Janda and Mark Cent along with pal Joe Adamo fishing Reynold's Channel with sand eels, from the station west to Buoy 17. On Sunday Bob Luige and Ken Menn totaled 15 keeper fluke on sand eels and killies. There are more keepers now though still lots of throwbacks. Both tides are good with the exception being 2 hours either side of the low. Flounders were cooperative in Swift Creek and off the Coast Guard Station and a regular came back with 80 of these little

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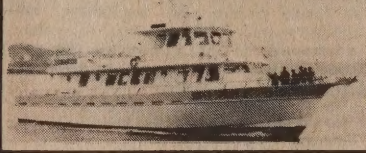

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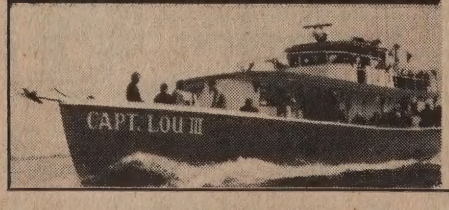

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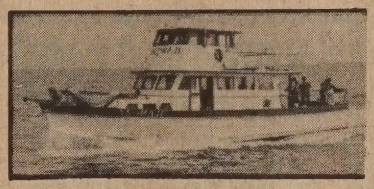

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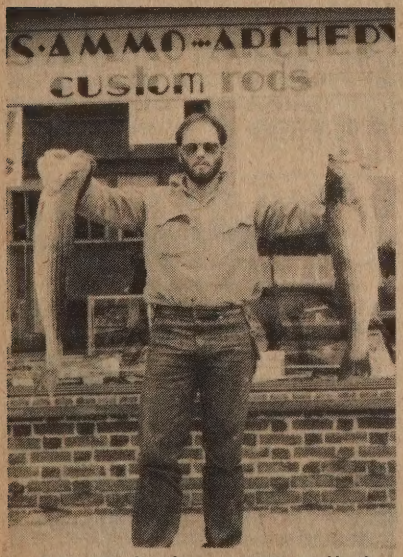

Robert Aurisy worm-trolled these bass along with 7 others in the western end of L.I. Sound. Photo courtesy of John's Gun and Tackle.

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beasts taken on worm. Blackfish are fewer but still around at the Twreck and the Meadowbrook Bridge. Very good blues on umbrellas at Cholera, fish in the 7 lb. class.

ISLAND PARK

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports very good fluking this week and weekend with a lot of activity in the bay. Seven to 8 keepers a man is the name of the game and when conditions are good as they were Wednesday and Thursday, the boat is fishing off Reis Park. Hi hook Sunday was 19 keepers. Saturday saw Brooklyn angler Tom Rupp with 22 keeper fluke up to 3 lbs. Clem is fishing 16, 18, the Golf Course and Garrett's Lead amongst other spots. Lots of fish in the back areas says the skipper. Pool fish are averaging 4 lbs.

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook reports that there is a better keeper ratio on fluke now, something like 50 percent. Reynold's Channel and the beach off the Rockaways and Playland have been good. Several good scores on striped bass have been made on trolled umbrellas in 25 to 40' of water from Long Beach to the Rockaways. Small spoons are working also. Flounders can be had right through the summer if you concentrate on them, fish hard and chum heavy with worm bait. Blackfish still available at bridges and rockpiles on worms, clam and fiddlers.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to say there are lots of blues around, mixed fish from 3 to 15 lbs. hitting on umbrellas and spoons. A few schoolie bass are also mixed in as are some mixed sized weakfish. The boat is fishing the NY Channels and off Jersey. Some bass are also being trolled at Norton's Point.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** reports that Harry Schecter, Harry Ross, Jeff Ledermann and Dr. Robert Tesch on the boat Bell Esprit fishing 6 miles SE of the HA hooked

John and Bill Osterholm and Ned Riebe with over 100 blues taken on baby bunker spoons at Ambrose aboard the charter boat "Kim."

and landed a white shark of 272 lbs. on June 12th. On the next day fishing the same spot they took a 110 lb. blue shark. Fred Hill on the Four Queens umbrellaed up 40 bluefish up to 10 lbs. between the Highlands and Sea Bright. Reynold's Channel is paved with fluke, mostly keepers says Al. Fish are hitting on both tides on killies, sand eels, squid and spearing.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina called to report nice scores of fluke between buoys 7 and 9, Reynold's Channel, and between the bridge and the Coast Guard Station at Atlantic Beach in Duck Point. Keith and Steve Soloman of Howard Beach with buddies Mike and Dave Barzlaz scored with 30 fluke to 4 lbs. between buoys 7 and 9 Sunday. Steve Golden and Phyllis Murray of Long Beach totaled 35 fluke on sand eels and squid at Duck Point Saturday. The keeper ratio was 50 percent and the larger fluke are asking for killies. Fifteen blackfish up to 4 lbs. were taken at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on fiddlers by John Salem and Howard Smith at Hi slack. Small blues being trolled off the Rockaways, 2 to 3 miles off.

EAST ROCKAWAY

Skippy's Bait & Tackle reports that Brian Berwin Jr. bagged a 10 plus lb. fluke at Sandy Hook this week. Fluke are increasing as to size with good areas being the Cement Block, Hog Channel, Reynold's Channel and Duck Point. In the Magnolia Pier area big bluefish have been taken at night on chunks of bunker on the bottom. Blue claw crabs have started in Bay Park. Bluefish are spread out in the ocean. Small snappers have made their presence known early in the back local creeks.

A shark was sighted in 60' of water off Jone's. There is still super flounder fishing. Steve and Mike Noble of East Rockaway had 2 buckets full of flounder taken in the Reynold's Channel-Inlet area on their boat Fish Hawk, using worms on the hook.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells of a 33 lb. 8 oz. striper caught Monday morning by Nelson Kennedy on a bunker chunk while fishing off the South Channel Bridge on a start of an ebbing tide at 5:30 a.m. A 6 lb. bluefish was caught off the North Channel Bridge on Wednesday morning on a bunker chunk. Bob and George Barr scored with 10 fluke from 1 to 3 lbs. Saturday in South Channel from a boat fishing between the bridge and the trestle with sand eels. Two to 5 lb. blues were taken by those casting bucktails in South Channel. An 8 lb. 8 oz. striper was caught from the South Channel Bridge Thursday on a bunker chunk fished on the bottom.

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Joe Sapienza of Kings Park gets a hand displaying bass of 41½ and 24 lbs. taken from the Atlantic Beach surf. Photo courtesy Bowman's Sporting Goods.

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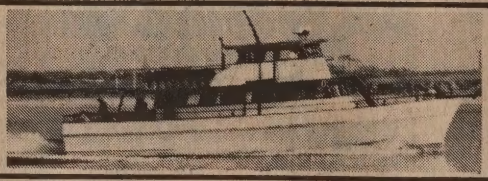

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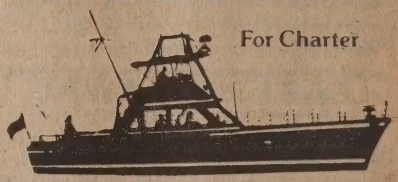

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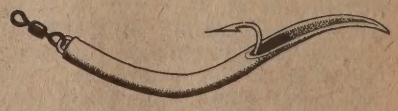

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** tells of an excellent Sunday's fluking. Butch has been fishing Gravesend Bay, the channels (both sides), the Tin Can and Norton's Point. Sunday's pool went 7½ lbs. and there were a few 4 pounders caught. Saturday's pool fish went 5 lbs. and there were several 3½ pounders. Keepers are averaging 2 to 14 a man with never more than a 50 percent throwback ratio. Spearing, sand eels and fluke belly are all effective.

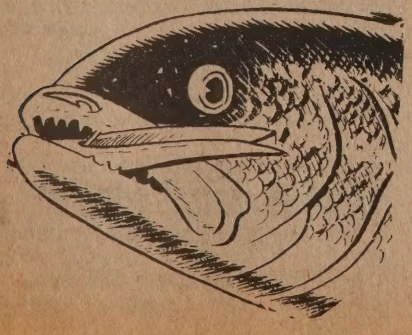
Charlie at **Mike's Bait & Tackle** reports that the party boats fishing blues at night on bait are doing well fishing Klondike and 17 Fathoms. Friday night was an exceptionally good catch of 8 to 12 lb. fish. The fluke boats continue to pick a way, doing better off the Jersey beaches. Blackfishing is still good with sea bass and blues mixed in. Anglers are scoring on blues using live Berguals as bait.

Capt Tom of the **Pilot II**, the area's blackfish speciality boat, reports continued good blackfishing with some sea bass mixed in. Sunday's passengers had from ½ to full 5 gallon buckets of blacks and sea bass, and a few porgies were also caught this week. Blacks are running up to 6 lbs. on fiddlers and sea bass up to 2 lbs. on squid. The skipper says this is the best blackfish spring he has seen in years.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop tells of blues at the Middle Grounds off Princess Bay through Keensburg on umbrellas or on single tubes fish in 2 to 4 lb. schools and 8 to 10 lb. schools. Chunkers between buoys 20 and 24 using fish finder rigs are scoring with blues from 8 to 14 lbs. Fluke from Great Kills Bug Light to buoy 4 Annandale. The channel edges are producing a lot of 2 to 4 pounders on squid/sand eel combos. Very few throwbacks. A few stripers a 21 Can at the Verrazano Bridge on live bunker. Hoffman and Swinburn Islands has been productive for schoolies on worms and on bucktails.

Piers 8, 12 and 17 for a mixed bag of flounders, blacks, tommy cod, eels and an occasional striper.



PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES/WEAKS

ORIENT POINT

Bob Haase at the **Orient By the Sea Marina** reported a catch of 25 blackfish, probably taken around the Lighthouse. Plenty of small flounder are off Orient on the Sound, but no fluke reported yet.

GREENPORT

Art White at the **AP White Bait Shop** told us that the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** slaughtered big flounder and porgies over the weekend off the Dumping Grounds on the Connecticut side of the Sound. Richie Jensen on the **Wilhelric** has been doing well with sonar and downriggers on Peconic weakfish, while Roddy DeLisle's **Prowler** has been working on flounder and blackfish in the Green hills area off Gardiner's. Eastern shores is making the news with schoolie bass, the 67 Steps area on the Sound is best for blackfish, and fluke are showing off East Marion and Hay Beach. Private boats are working weaks off Shelter Island.

SOUTHOLD

The **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that the best of their porgy action is anywhere from Noyac Bay through Jessups and the Middle Grounds, around buoys 16, 17 and 18. Sound blackfishing is more attractive than flounder fishing, but the small flatfish are still off Orient. Weakfishing is better off Jennings Point than it is in the Brickyard.

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** also tells us that porgies are being caught right in front of the Orient Station. These are medium to large fish hitting clam and worm on both tides. One rental skiff had over 100. Weaks and blues are being jigged right in front of the Southold Station in the main channel off buoy 11 at high water. This channel runs 80 to 90' depths.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil Loria at **Capt Marty's** described Sunday porgy action between buoy 23 and the Sandslide with a few weakfish 3-4 lbs. Five gallon pails of scup from ½ to 1½ lbs. are not unusual. Blowfish and blues up to 2 lbs. are in catches as well. All weakfish action is now on bait.

Newt Robbins at **Capt Jim's** mentioned a few weaks to 5 lbs. in weekend returns, with porgies holding up well in Roses Grove and around buoy 22. The most encouraging sign is the return of the tasty blowfish to the Peconics, although there are still not as many puffers as Robbins would like to see.

AQUEBOGUE

George at **Warren's** said that the Sound blackfishing from Roanoke to Orient was extremely good. Some porgies were around, and there were also a number of weaks taken on sand worms. Rumors of early fluke in Truman's and Petty's could not be confirmed.

MATTITUCK

Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** said that the pipeline is still the best spot for blackfish, but the Beachcomber area was also good. Porgy action on Saturday was good with fish from sands up to 2 lbs. along with sea bass mixed n. Again, it was the pipeline that drew most of the action. Most boats had anywhere from one to six weaks, and the best catch of fluke over the weekend was 27 keepers up to 4½ lbs. Outgoing water is very good.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle has heard of reports of Shinnecock fluke in the East and West Channels. Shinnecock Canal is harboroing a mixed bag of short fluke, sea robins, blackfish, blues and weaks. The South Race in Peconic has produced weaks and blues. Pete Bertrand and Mark Westerhoff fishing white jelly worms with squid strips had 2 weaks in the 5 lb. class, 2 in the 8 lb. class and one 10 pounder fishing Saturday night's flood. Blues in the South Race running 2 to 7 lbs. on poppers. Middle Grounds at Noyac's buoy 18 to 16 for 4 Bronx residents gave forth 158 porgies in the small to medium class up to 1¼ lbs. on worm and clam. Blues being trolled at Jessups on small umbrellas. Gardiner's Island still producing flounders and blacks at Eastern Plains Point on worms. Fluke fishing remains slow at the Ruins.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** tells us that the porgies are still very good, fish averaging 1½ lbs. at Cedar Point with smaller porgies at buoy 11 and the ferry on worm, clam and squid, ebbing tide best. Weaks have been good at Cedar Point with 3 pounders being taken along with 8 pounders on artificials. Weaks have also been coaxed to the hook at Smith's Cove. Blues are being umbrellaed at Mashamock Point.

The **Wilhelric II** reports excellent porgy fishing all week long. Fish are mixed from small to 3 pounders and

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are hitting worm and clam bait. Friday saw Queens angler Roy Elmhardt take the pool with a 4 lb. 12 oz. sea bass. He also had 58 porgies up to 3 lbs. Porgies were caught in just a couple drops and fares are loading up everyday.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina describes decent catches of weakfish and a few blues mixed in near Long Beach and off the Monastery on Hopkins and Ava 67s. The blues are on top and the weaks on the bottom. The clue has been to watch for bird activity.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES/BLACKS

MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick at **Dick's Sporting Goods** reported a 3½ lb. porgy taken from the beach at Miller Place by William Moody of Centereach. Dick added that the bottom fishing for both porgies and blackfish has been good for boatmen and beach fishermen. Plenty of blues being trolled on umbrella rigs between Shoreham and Mt. Sinai Harbor.

Ralph at **Ralph's Fishing Station** says that half the fluke coming into the station are keepers, with yesterday's 10 lb. doormat the biggest in recent days. Sand eel-squid combo baits work best. A 10 gallon catch of porgies from 1/2 lb. up to sea sizes is not unusual for those who work the rocky shallows. Blues are hauled by those anglers fishing Hopkins; the fish are chopper sizes, 2-4 lbs. Weaks are around for those who drift jelly worms.

PORT JEFFERSON

John at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** says they have just about everything to offer. The East Beach has fluke in the 3-4 lb. class on sand eel-squid combos, and blues to 11 lbs. may be

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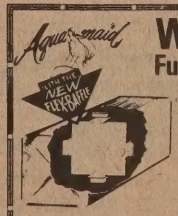

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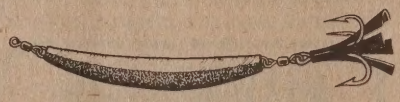

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trolled early and late with umbrellas. Boats that stay out the night are taking up to 30 weaks off White Beach, Miller Place, on live sand worms and jelly worms. Oldfield has porgies over a pound along with a few sea bass mixed in.

Captain John Fisher of the **Aqua Gem** reports porgies from pins to jumbos east of Port Jefferson and off Shoreham with 20-50 scup per man in many catches. Up to 5-10 blackfish per anglers are also there, with the tautog coming from 22' of water on sand worms. A few fluke or odd weaks show up, too. Most blackfish are 2-4 lbs. now, but the weekend's best went 10½ lbs.

KINGS PARK

Bob at the **O.K. Bait and Tackle** describes "dynamite bluefishing" on just about everything. Most fish are 3-4 lbs. with a few bigger. The Mannarios, Rocco, Frank, and Sal, had about 50 blues off the River Mouth, and Joe DiNapoli and Dave Hull also did a job over Sunday and the weekend. Rebels and poppers were the producing lures. Porgy fishing is described as "decent" with the flounder now small.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's** says last week's scene was dominated by all day action on blues in the 3-7 lb. class. In afternoon and evenings, fish were within 300 yds. of shore. Rebels in black and blue, RedFins and poppers all produced around Crab Meadow, the Lilco Plant and Asharoken, while offhore umbrella haulers were working on slammers to 12-15 lbs. some three miles off the beach. Down below the big blues were a few big weaks and bass. A 14 lb. weak and a 25 lb. bass made up the trip in one bluefish haull off Eatons. Tube colors are combos of reds and whites. Blackfish seem to be moving into the deeper water between buoy 13 and buoy 11B.

HUNTINGTON

Capt Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** tells of good blackfishing Friday and Saturday. Sunday was no go because of the weather. Blacks are being caught up to 9 lbs. Fridays and Saturdays pool winner was regular Delores Schmidt with a 6½ lb. black. Sunday Nona Collins was in the running for the pool with a 6 lb. 12 oz. black. Lots of blues moving into the area. Please see ad for new sailing schedule effective Saturday June 20th.

From the **Four Winds Bait & Tackle,** we learn that there are plenty of blues around. Small choppers in the 2 lb. class can be found in the power plant area, while larger sizes are in the rip. Schoolie bass up to 6 lbs. can be taken in the rip off Eatons with wire and umbrellas. Blacks are still around and porgies are beginning

to show.

Ronnie's said that porgies were the best bet on the bottom, and fluke action had started. Worm trolling and plugging the shallows with Rebels produced bass in mid-sizes, and the propietor himself weighed in a 16 lb. blue that came in wth a few bass.

GLEN COVE

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** tells us that blackfish are holding up but you may have to "scratch for them." Several fish over 10 lbs. hit the scales this week; Matinecock, Peacock Point, and Pryble Beach are still producing. Porgy fishing through Friday was good, and there is some spotty fishing for bass and blues off Matinecock as well. Rebels and tin produce bass in the 10-20 lb. class, but there is no concentration. Dick Clark weighed in the best bluefish of the week, a 10 lb. 14 oz. fish taken on a popper.

Captain Joe Fink of the **Lady Lil II** tells us there are lots of porgies off Center Island, Peacock and the Bayville Beaches. Although Saturday was "off," Sunday fares were back hauling 60-70 scup per man with a few blackfish mixed in. Porgies are mixed sizes 1/2 to 1 lb. with blackfish up to 9 lbs. Worms seem to outfish clams. Most flounder are throwbacks now, but there are a few fish to 1½ lbs. mixed in with the postage stamps. Seabass and blowfish also make a showing.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** says Saturdays and Sundays porgy fishing was definitely good with catches averaging 30 to 50 porgies a man from ½ to 1 lb. Friday was the only slow day with porgies from 15 to 25 a man. Sunday saw a mixed catch of porgies, flounders, blacks and 2 sea bass. Joe says the Sound is loaded with sand eels. Flounders are still being caught in the Sound from 1 to 2 lbs.

Capt Dom of the **Apache** tells of nice porgy fishing all week, from 25 to 40 porgies a man fish running ¾ to 1½ lbs. Dom is fishing Lloyd's for the bigger fish and Oyster Bay for the smaller fish but in greater numbers. Flounders, blacks and sea bass are also mixed in.

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** describes very good blackfishing with hard baits, with the biggest tautog of the week a 10 lb. 6 oz. bulldog. Striped bass fishing around the local shoreline is also quite good with a number of twenties in the catches.

The **North Star** has been doing a job on nice porgies in the 1/2 to 1 lb. class. Enough blackfish are around to win the daily pools (tautog in the 5-7 lb. range) plus an occasional fluke. While the fishing slowed on Friday, the weekend came off very well with Sunday extremely productive.

NEW ROCHELLE

John at **John's Gun & Tackle** tells us that bluefish action is steady now for umbrella trollers with red tubes. Stripers of all sizes are being taken by worm trollers, while casting with Rebels will produce schoolies. Flounder, blackfish and porgies are available on the Long Island side.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

The surf fishing picture around the Island witnessed some changes this past week with blues dominating the north shore action and the Montauk surf suffering what hopefully is just a temporary lull.

Miller Place Beach continued to produce weaks and some blues, but the crowds which have been attracted to this ongoing hotspot have detracted from its appeal.

Here's the way things shaped up after this week's round of phone calls.

At the western end of the island, Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** in Staten Island knew that casters have been taking blues anywhere from 2-11 lbs. on cut bunker from the South Beach and Berger Ave. storm sewers. Last two hours of the ebb have witnessed most of the action. On the first part of the ebb, Lenny suggested the bar at the mouth of Great Kills Harbor. Small bucktails, tins and sand worms continue to take some school bass at Cliff Street.

Bernie Haag reporting from the **Long Beach Sports Marina** said bass action at the Rockaways and Atlantic Beach has dropped off considerably although a couple of sharpies continue to bang away at the fish. What action there is has been on whole or chunk bunker. Blues in the 4-5 lb. class come and go along the beach from Atlantic Beach to Pt. Lookout. An occasional bass is mixed in. Once again, Bernie asked us to remind casters that the marina will remain open throughout the season on Friday and Saturday nights until 10PM for surfmen looking to weigh in fish or to stock up on bait or plugs.

Down Amityville Way, George Combs had the biggest bass of the weekend checked in to his bait and

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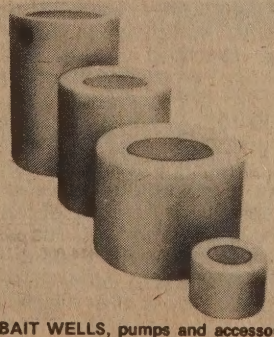

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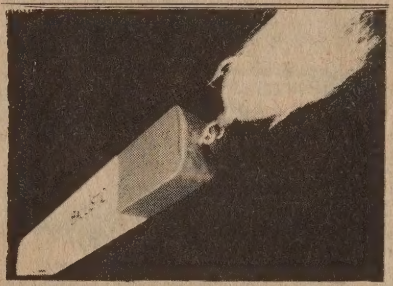

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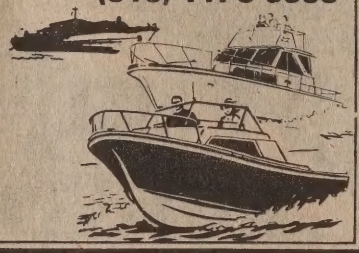

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tackle shop. Alfred Anuszewski used a bunker chunk to take a 45 lb. cow from the beach at PT. Lookout Thursday PM. He told George that he took the fish at high water.

From **The Store** at Oak Beach, Hayes reported the summer run of weakfish at Democrat Point was just getting under way with a few fish starting to show on sand worms. Bob Smith checked in a bass of 14 lbs. Saturday which he took from the Sore Thumb on a live eel. A couple of school bass taken last week from the Thumb also on tins and small swimming plugs.

At least a couple of big bass are roaming the Fire Island Inlet area. Ray Bartlett dragged a 29½ lb. striper in to J&R Sports Center in Oakdale late last week. Ray told Dave Canali that he took the fish on a yellow bottle plug.

In the Shinnecock area, Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported the ocean beaches remained quiet this past week. Thom looks to this week's moon to possibly stir some bass action at the inlet. On the Peconic side, a few weaks and blues on tin at Cow Neck and Long Beach, but this fishing is gradually fizzing out.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch from **Johnny's Bait and Tackle** said that action around the Point died the latter part of last week and over the weekend. Percy Heath had the lone fish on Thursday night, a 24 lber., while only 2 other fish, both in the 20 lb. class were taken between Friday and Sunday night. John was encouraged nonetheless by the quantity of bait which remains in the area and which has now spread to the north along Gin Beach.

Moving over to the north shore some lively bluefish action kept casters busy at Lloyd's Point, the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway and at Crab Meadow Beach several days last week. While most of the blues are in the 3-6 lb. class, an occasional chopper to 10 lbs. was mixed in. At Lloyd's Pt., a few school bass are also in evidence after dark on 5½'' Rebels. Tri-Fin eel worms, Whiptails and tins in the 1-1½ oz. weight range accounted for most of the choppers. All of this according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** in Huntington.

Dick of **Dick's Sporting Goods** in Mt. Sinai told me weaks continue to be taken at Miller Place. Blues are mixed with the yellowfins. Action can best be described as unpredictable but fast fishing possible at any time of the day. A very occasional bass from 15 to 30 lbs. taken from along the same stretch of beach. Tri-Fin eel worms, spoon jigs with a tube and #3 Hopkins seem to work best on the weaks and blues. A couple of the bass taken have fallen to 5½'' Rebels.

From his **Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop**, Stan told of a 37½ lb. striper taken by Steve Bunai from a local beach. Steve took the fish on a white ''Droppa'' fished ahead of a 5½'' Rebel. He was with his brother Dave at the time.

NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 13.)

Hotspot Dredging and Disposal Program for the Upper Hudson River which was described in a previous National Scene. This hearing is sponsored by the New York District, Corps of Engineers and EPA, and will be held at 2 World Trade Center, Main Hearing Room, 44th floor, New York City. Speakers will be limited to 10 minutes, but lengthier written presentations may be submitted for the record. The record will remain open until July 5 for submission of additional written comments. The DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) can be viewed at the NYSDEC office at 2 World Trade Center in NYC, and comments on it should be directed to Ms. Robin Rohn, U.S. EPA, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 400, New York, N.Y. 10278; (212) 264-8677.

FISH TALK:

(Continued from page 14.)

data we'll not be able to attack other contributing problems. The opposite of that could also occur. Thus we need a balanced approach. The work of Dr. Joseph Mihursky, Professor of ecology at the University of Maryland. Mihurky has looked at the environment as a cause for the bass decline. His team of scientists have been correlating data from beach seines to records of weather conditions for twenty-five years. They found that a dominant year class was produced when there were below normal winter temperatures and above average rainfall and/or runoff in April. The cold winter temperatures need to begin in December for best productivity. The April runoff then washes the organic matter deposited on the ground or in rivers and streams from the autumn die-off into the estuaries, where it rots. The rotting organic matter then supplies plankton with the raw materials for a heavy ''bloom'' and these plankton are then eaten by the newly hatched bass. If the cold temperatures come too late, the leaves and grass from the fall die-off will rot too soon and much of its advantage to the plankton will be lost. According to Mihursky, we haven't had those conditions since 1970, which was the year of the last dominant year class in the Chesapeake. Mihurky also warns that if we get those conditions and we still do not witness a large year class, that we will have strong motivation for looking at other factors such as pollution for the main source of the problem. In December, 1980, the cold came early and runoff appears to have been high in April; therefore, we anxiously await Dr. Mihursky's analysis and findings.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	9:10	9:25	10:00	10:10	9:55	9:55	10:50	10:50	12:05	12:45	12:10	12:40	9:10	9:25	6/18
FRI.	9:50	10:00	10:40	10:50	10:40	10:35	11:30	11:30	12:35	1:10	12:50	1:20	9:50	10:05	6/19
SAT.	10:30	10:45	11:20	11:30	11:20	11:10	–	12:10	1:10	1:45	1:30	2:00	10:35	10:45	6/20
SUN.	11:15	11:25	–	12:05	–	12:05	12:10	12:55	1:50	2:25	2:10	2:45	11:20	11:35	6/21
MON.	–	12:00	12:15	12:50	11:55	12:50	12:55	1:45	2:40	3:10	2:50	3:25	–	12:05	6/22
TUE.	12:15	12:55	1:05	1:40	12:45	1:40	1:45	2:40	3:30	4:00	3:45	4:15	12:25	1:00	6/23
WED.	1:10	1:45	1:55	2:40	1:35	2:25	2:45	3:35	4:20	4:55	4:35	5:10	1:15	1:55	6/24
THUR.	2:05	2:45	2:50	3:35	2:30	3:20	3:50	4:30	5:20	5:55	5:35	6:05	2:15	2:55	6/25

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

6/19	5:24	8:39
6/20	5:24	8:39
6/21	5:24	8:39
6/22	5:24	8:39
6/23	5:25	8:40
6/24	5:25	8:40
6/25	5:25	8:40

Moonrise/Moonset

6/19	10:12 PM	6:17 AM
6/20	10:55 PM	7:08 AM
6/21	11:34 PM	8:05 AM
6/22	—	9:05 AM
6/23	12:10 AM	10:08 AM
6/24	12:43 AM	11:13 AM
6/25	1:14 AM	12:28 PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/2	6/9	6/17	6/25

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	6:05	—	6:30	12:20
Fri.	7:00	12:45	7:15	1:15
Sat.	7:50	1:40	8:20	2:05
Sun.	8:45	2:35	9:15	3:00
Mon.	9:40	3:30	10:15	4:00
Tues.	10:35	4:25	11:05	4:50
Wed.	11:25	5:15	11:55	5:40
Thurs.	—	6:10	12:20	6:35

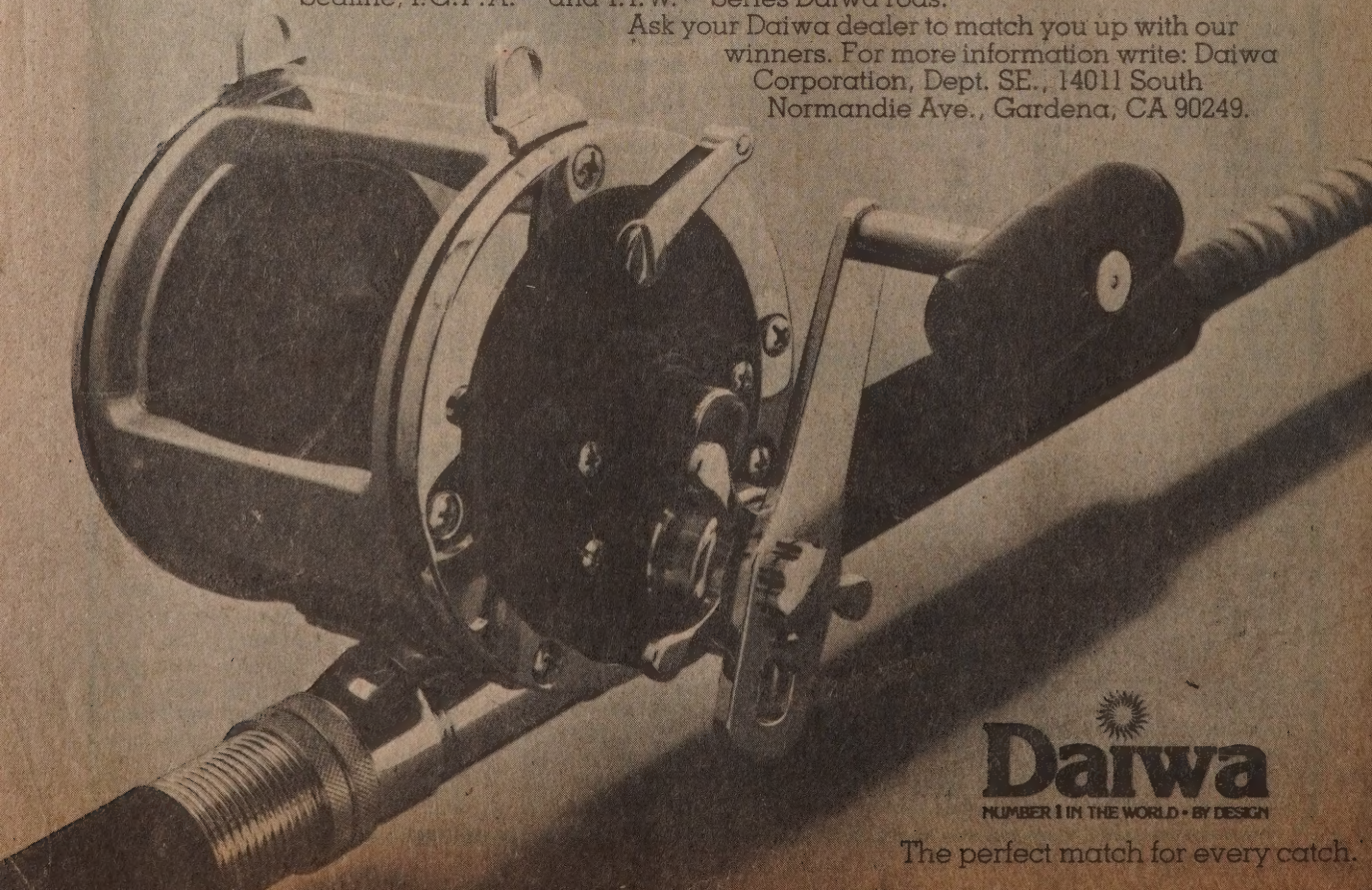
The Daiwa Sealine.®
Last year, we re-invented the reel and now it's a real winner.

Last year Daiwa launched Sealine rods and reels. Sealine reels are the first reels in the mid-price range to offer such high-performance features as all-metal construction, one-piece frame and a smooth-running, surge free drag. Sealine won the confidence of seasoned fishermen and proved itself at sea in a single season.

16,000 pounds of hard fighting ocean fish were caught on a single, light duty Sealine reel. The reel withstood this punishment so well, it wasn't even necessary to change the drag washers. Practically overnight, Sealine became a favorite with serious ocean fishermen.

This year we've added the new 30H reel for heavy freshwater and light saltwater fishing, and the 900H for extra heavy-duty angling. We've also added two new heavy-duty models with stainless steel spools. Now there are 12 Sealine reels that can be matched to Sealine, I.G.F.A.™ and T.T.W.™ Series Daiwa rods.

Ask your Daiwa dealer to match you up with our winners. For more information write: Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE., 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.



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